

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 8, 2026



# Bethlehem

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**1926 - 2026**

*Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.*

## ***Welcome to Worship***

*We're so glad you're here. For a century, Bethlehem has gathered God's people around His gifts. Rooted in the historic liturgy and the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, worship here has always centered on what God does for us. We gather around His Word and His Sacraments, where Jesus Himself is present—speaking forgiveness, sustaining life, and giving hope. Worship is not first about what we bring, but about how God serves us, and how we respond with praise, prayer, and thanksgiving.*

*For one hundred years, this has been our shared calling: Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope. Generation after generation, God has been at work here—gathering His people, forming them through His Word and gifts, and sending them into the world. And He is not finished yet. As a Gospel presence in our neighborhood, we trust that the same faithful God who carried us through the past is shaping what is to come. Whether this is your first visit or your spiritual home, you belong here. May this time of worship nurture your faith, fill you with Christ's hope, and send you out ready to proclaim His love in word and deed.*

## **REGARDING THE LORD'S SUPPER**

At Bethlehem, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us more than a symbol—He gives us Himself. In, with, and under the bread and wine, we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the unity of His people. This is how Christ continues to proclaim His saving work and nurture our faith today.

As we prepare to receive this gift, we follow the Scriptures and the Small Catechism in examining ourselves: Do I believe I am a sinner in need of God's grace? Do I trust in Jesus as my Savior? Do I believe that Christ is truly present in this meal? Do I desire to turn from sin and live in faith and love? Whoever answers yes to these is truly worthy and well prepared.

Bethlehem is a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and we ask that all who commune share our confession of faith. If you are not yet instructed in this teaching or have questions, we warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing—simply cross your arms over your chest—or speak with our pastor after the service. We are glad you're here, and we would love to walk with you as we grow in Christ together.

***(Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex.  
Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.)***

**+ PREPARATION +**  
**PRESERVICE MUSIC**

**WELCOME / RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**HYMN**

TFBF #65

**THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE**

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system includes three-part harmony for the first three parts. The second and third systems include four-part harmony. The fourth system features a final chorus with a melisma on the word 'shine'.

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;

oh, oh,

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;

oh,

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,

oh,

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.

*(Stand)*

## INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor	In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Amen.</b>
Pastor	Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!</b>
Pastor	Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”</b>
Pastor	Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!</b>
Pastor	Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>and His righteousness endures forever.</b>

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor	As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy. Humble yourselves, then, before God; confess your sins to Him and implore His forgiveness.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed, I have continually transgressed Your Law. Too often I have sought the easy road of ignoring the needs of others and considered only myself and my wants. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.</b>
Pastor	God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Amen.</b>

Pastor As you believe, so let it be. 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.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor As God's forgiven people, we join confidently in a sung prayer to our gracious God.

**HYMN**

TFBF #291

**I WILL ENTER HIS GATES *HE HAS MADE ME GLAD***

**I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart**

**I will enter His courts with praise**

**I will say this is the day that the Lord has made**

**I will rejoice for He has made me glad**

**He has made me glad, He has made me glad**

**I will rejoice for He has made me glad**

**He has made me glad, He has made me glad**

**I will rejoice for He has made me glad**

**I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart**

**I will enter His courts with praise**

**I will say this is the day that the Lord has made**

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**He has made me glad, He has made me glad**

**I will rejoice for He has made me glad**

**He has made me glad, He has made me glad**

**I will rejoice for He has made me glad**

## *+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor                   The Lord be with you.

**Congregation       And with thy spirit.**

Pastor                   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.

**Congregation       Amen.**

*(Sit)*

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

Isaiah 58:3–9a

<sup>3</sup>“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. <sup>4</sup>Behold, 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. <sup>5</sup>Is 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? <sup>6</sup>“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? <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 him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? <sup>8</sup>Then 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. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

Leader                   This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation       Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

<sup>1</sup>And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty 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 was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, 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 heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

**ALLELUIA**



## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:13–20

<sup>13</sup>[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.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, 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 who is in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup>For 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. <sup>19</sup>Therefore 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. <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.”

Pastor                      This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation              Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

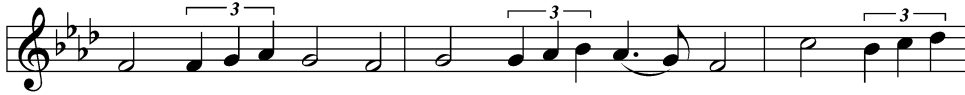


(Sit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #578

### THY STRONG WORD



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy  
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as  
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with  
4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
night and deep as death, Broke the light of  
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we  
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.  
ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

6 Please stand

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76

Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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Tune: Public domain

**SERMON**

*“Shine Your Light”*

(Stand)

## APOSTLES' CREED

LSB pg.192

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  $\text{✙}$  everlasting.  
Amen.

(Sit)

## OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING

Choir

*"Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God"* (by G.F. Handel arr. Hal Hopson)

(Stand)

## OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 192

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

(Sit)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

### PREFACE

LSB pg. 194

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And with thy spirit.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation We lift them up unto the Lord.**

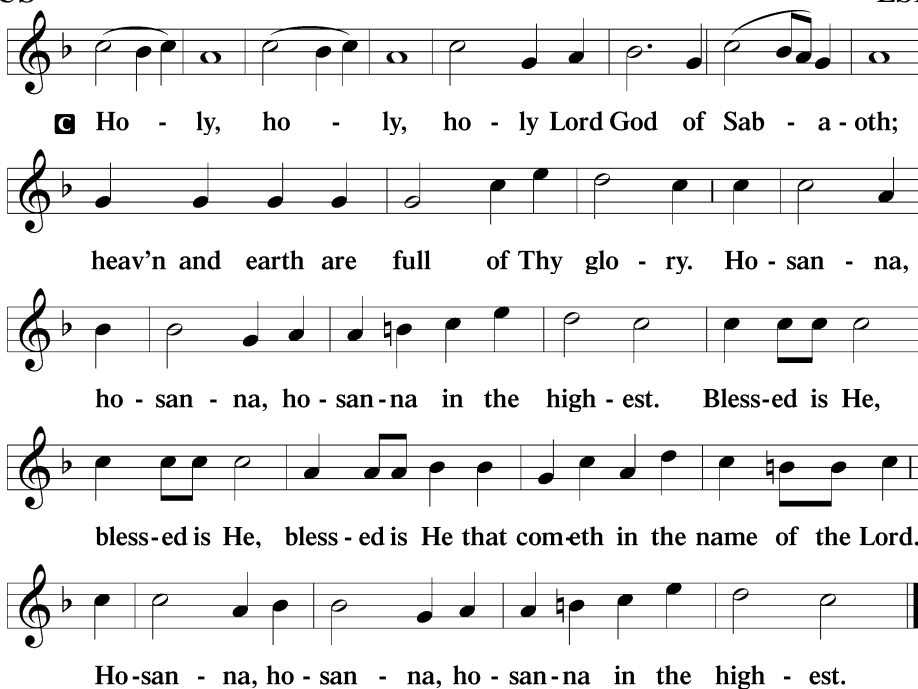
Pastor Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**Congregation It is meet and right so to do.**

### PROPER PREFACE

### SANCTUS

LSB pg. 195



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### LORD'S PRAYER

LSB pg. 196

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.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB pg. 197

## PAX DOMINI

LSB pg. 197

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

(Sit)

## DISTRIBUTION

*Prayerful Meditation*

## MUSICAL OFFERING

Handbells

*“Shine, Jesus, Shine”*

(Stand)

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## THANKSGIVING

Pastor O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
Congregation and His mercy endureth forever.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

## BENEDICTION

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
Congregation Amen.

# I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

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

I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
I want to look at Je - sus.  
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.  
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
When we have run with pa - tience the race,

The star of my life is Je - sus.  
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
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.

## **MINISTRY TEAM**

### **The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer**

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Vice President – John Stafford**

**Secretary – Blake Sebring**

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## **At Large Members:**

**Dan Bates**

**John Bates**

**Rachelle Dance**

**David Schult**

## **SCHOOLS**

**Lutheran South Unity School.....[lsusfw.org](http://lsusfw.org).....744-0459**

**Concordia Lutheran High School....[clhscadets.com](http://clhscadets.com).....483-1102**

## **COUNSELING NEEDS**

*Please talk to Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer for a referral for counseling to Cross Connections.*

## **BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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[www.bethlehemlcms.org](http://www.bethlehemlcms.org)

Church Office, (260) 744-3228 Fax Number, (260) 744-3229

Office Hours: 10:00am – 4:00pm (Monday – Friday)

### ***Our Worship Schedule:***

*Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm*

*Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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