

# Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



**Sunday, February 8, 2026**

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ  
2725 Concord Drive  
Florissant, MO 63033

**PRELUDE**

“Strength in the Stillness”

Matt Schinske

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** (*Details are on the slides and at the end of bulletin*)

**GATHERING HYMN**

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW#660

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.

**A: Amen.**

Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Reconciling God,  
**we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.  
We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.  
Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
Amen.**

God’s grace upon grace flows over you.

† Christ’s presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with your Love”

ELW#708

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.**

## FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

<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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God

## PSALM 112:1-9 [10]

L: <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God’s commandments!

C: <sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

L: <sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

C: <sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

L: <sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

C: <sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

L: <sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

C: <sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

L: <sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

C: <sup>10</sup> **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 2:1-16

<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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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## GOSPEL READING

P: The holy Gospel according to **Matthew 5:13-20**

**C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Following the reading the assembly is seated*

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** – Pastor Rick Mueller  
*Please stand as you are able*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

ELW#656

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** – *The 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: 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.

*A brief silence.*

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. 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 war zones (*areas of conflict may be named*). We pray for 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 (*especially*). 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**Amen.**

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT** - . Thank you to Deanna and Shon for transporting the handbells from Living Christ to their new home with First Methodist Church of Manhattan, Kansas. The new congregation will enjoy the music as much as we did.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE** *Please stand as you are able*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*Share God's peace in whatever way you are comfortable. Following this please be seated.*

## **GATHERING OF OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

"Create in me a Clean Heart"

ELW#188

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: God of glory,  
great are your wonders among us  
and many are the blessings you bestow.  
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,  
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,  
through Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY

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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.

### CHRIST HAS DIED

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### LORD'S PRAYER

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### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

C: **Amen**

**DISTRIBUTION** *Time is given for the sharing of bread and wine.*

### DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Voices Raised to You"

ELW#845

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you in God's grace unto eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

### PRAYER

L: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray **C: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

P: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **C: Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

"I Love to Tell the Story"

ELW#661

### DISMISSAL

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**THIS WEEK’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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Sunday (2-8) 9:15 AM Worship  
 11:00 AM True Vine  
 Monday (2-9) 6:00 PM CVT  
 7:00 PM Council  
 Tuesday (2-10) 11:00 AM Exercise  
 Thursday (2-12) 11:00 AM Exercise

**1. FEBRUARY LUNCH BUNCH** Lunch Bunch will dine at Massa’s on February 12 at 11:30 am. Massa’s is located at 3761 New Town Blvd., St. Charles, MO. The 50’s Group ate there after a Fast Lane Classic Cars Tour last year. They offer a varied menu with appetizers, salads, pizza, sandwiches and pastas. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to join us, please notify Joyce Meyer at 314-374-4135 or email [jameyer46@charter.net](mailto:jameyer46@charter.net).

**2. FIFTY PLUS FEBRUARY VALENTINES PARTY** Fifty Plus will meet on February 19 at 12:00 pm at LCLC on the upper level. We will be enjoying red and white pasta, pizza, salad and garlic bread. A drink and dessert will also be available all for a donation of \$10. We will also be playing a Valentines trivia game to test our memory. A sign-up sheet will be posted on a bulletin board.

**3. CREATE DAY-** Friday, February 27, 9-11 is the next Create Day. We will be tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Everyone is welcome!

**4. OUTREACH -** For the month of February, Outreach will be collecting food for TEAM. TEAM (The Emergency Assistance Ministry) was founded in 1986 and is operated by 100% volunteer help in Florissant-Hazelwood. TEAM serves over 700 families per month! Canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meat are a few of the items that are needed. There is a TEAM collection table on the way into the church. Thank you!

<p>February 8, 2026  <b>Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Rick Mueller</b>  <b>Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett</b>  <b>Lector: Gary Brown</b>  <b>Live Stream: Rod Wallace</b>  <b>Musician: Greg Ott</b>  <b>Ushers: Glenn Albers &amp; Ann Schultz</b>  <b>Greeter: Jeanne Calderwood</b>  <b>Altar Guild: Maureen Buchek &amp; Marjorie Becker</b></p>	<p>February 15, 2026  <b>Preaching/Presiding: PMA Jon Heerboth</b>  <b>Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepffel</b>  <b>Lector: Laurie Brown</b>  <b>Live Stream: Marilyn Wiley</b>  <b>Musician: Greg Ott</b>  <b>Ushers: Levaughn &amp; Sheila Smart</b>  <b>Greeter: Jim &amp; Doris Stoechner</b>  <b>Altar Guild: Cathie Lehr &amp; Joyce Meyer</b></p>
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