February 8, 2026 ☩
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!
"God's Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people."

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold.**

P: Indicates the Presider. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister.

We Gather

Prelude –

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 673 "God, Whose Almighty Word"

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.
Amen.
Let us turn in confession 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 ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.
Amen.

***Apostolic Greeting** P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***Kyrie** - page 3, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*__Hymn of Praise__ – page 4, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*__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.**

Scripture Acclamation - "Come and See"

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

1 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. 2 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.
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. 4 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. 5 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?

6 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? 7 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? 8 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. 9a Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry
for help, and he will say, "Here I am." 9b If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, 10 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. 11 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. 12 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. Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112: 1-10- *The psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse.*

1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!
2 **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;**
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
3 Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
4 **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
5 It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
6 **For they will never be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
8 **Their heart is established and will not shrink,**
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
9 They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
10 **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

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

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

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

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

16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of
Christ.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** – page 7, *Now the Feast and Celebration* "Alleluia"

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

The Gospel of Matthew, the 5th Chapter. **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. 15 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. 16 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.

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to
abolish but to fulfill. 18 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. 19 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. 20 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 – Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** – Bring Forth the Kingdom of Mercy (see back page)

*__The Apostles' Creed –__
Together let us profess our faith.

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__
AM: 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. *After each petition*: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**
AM: 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.**

*__Sign of Peace__ P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** Please offer one another some sign of Christ's peace.

Offering – For electronic giving please scan the QR on announcement page and ***Thank you!***

Offering music – "Jesus the Light of the World" Traditional, arr. Andre Thomas

*__Offertory hymn__– page 9, *Now the Feast and Celebration* "As the Grains of Wheat"

*__Offering Prayer__ AM: 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.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

*__Great Thanksgiving and Preface__ - *(sung)* page 10, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ – page 10, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*__Words of Institution__

*__The Lord's Prayer__

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

*__Invitation to the Table__ – P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving communion continuously.*
Lamb of God – page 13, *Now the Feast and Celebration*
Hymn –no 712 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"
Hymn – see back page "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Prayer After Communion
P: 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.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

*__Sending Hymn__ – no. 715 "Christ, Be Our Light"

*__Blessing & Dismissal__

P: 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.**
AM: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude -**

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Organist: Brenda Handel-Johnson
Assisting Minister: Grace Timm
Director of Choirs:
Sarah Chambers

Usher: Jaxton Hoenke, John Nadeau, Steve Bolint,
Communion Preparer: Keith & Carrie Stelter
Communion Servers: Shirb and John Sylvester
Acolytes: Max Szybnki, Reese Drinkall

Tech: Shanon Nowell, Noraa Caven
Bread Baker: Betsy Bolint

Prayers: We pray for those on our long-term list: Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Gretchen Bray, Lenore Schnobrich, Gloria Kane, Harvey Kane, Lisa Handel-Dalvand, Karen Handel, Erika Schuldt, Ruth Edberg, Bob Lamb, Dorothy and Paul Lutz, Steve Erickson, Barbra Grabowski (Ted Kunze's sister), Garrett Paul, Chaplain Ben Hilding, Mary Ann Scharf, David Ribar, Nate Tuener (family friend of Bob and Rhoda Stenson), Bruce Gray, and Sandy Grochow.

FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- **First Forum today - Fred Snyder with Lutheran Social Services** will join us to share about the work LSS is doing and how we can be a part of it.
- **Pontius Pilate's Passion**: This Lenten season, join Annalise Rivas for an exploration of the Passion story like you've never seen it before. Wednesday evenings from 6:45-7:30pm in the Pioneer Parlor, February 11 - April 8.

- Please join us for worship on Feb. 15th. We will have a special **"Thanksgiving at the Retirement of a Debt"** during worship to celebrate paying off our mortgage!
- **We are collecting shampoo and body wash** for the St Peter Area Food Shelf during January and February. Please drop donations in the box in the gathering space.
- **Thank you** to everyone who sponsored poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please pick it up in the Gathering Space.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **Valentine Party and Singalong** on Friday, February 13 at Benedictine Court. Join the CCM committee and Deacon Brenda at 2 pm for an hour of singing, visiting and Valentine creating.

- **Meal Volunteers Needed:** Please consider being a meal server or clean-up crew for our Wednesday meals in February. Sign up in the narthex or at bit.ly/flcmeals1-2
- Dad's Winterfest **Waffle Breakfast** sponsored by the Lions Club will be held at the community center today. Details on the flyer hanging outside the office.
- Order forms are available for **Easter flowers** for the altar. Please see ordering sheets on the table in the gathering space.

Please use the QR code below for electronic giving and thank you!

QR offering code

Acknowledgments

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