

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

10:30 am

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.

106 Maple St., Reading, OH 45215 • 513-821-0987 • stpaulreading.org

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany: February 8, 2026

Prelude: “Thy Word is a Lamp”

Gathering

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Please kneel or sit as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

Entrance Hymn #393 (green hymnal)

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

WOV Setting 5



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Hymn of Praise

WOV Setting 5



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



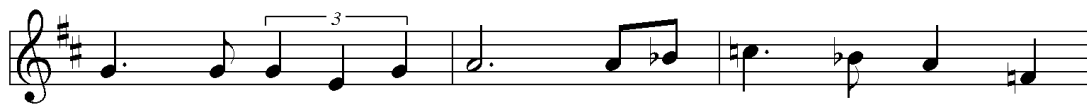
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

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.

C: **Amen.**

The Word

Blessing of the Lector

P: Marie, may God bless you as you read for us the scriptures. May the word of God dwell in us richly so that everything we do in word or deed will be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a

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.

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 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.

⁴You 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 straps 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.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: “Blessed are Those Who Love You” (Ps. 112)

Verse 1 (All):



1. Blessed are those who love You, and fear You, pur-sue You. Blessed are those who



walk in the light of Your Ways. Wealth and rich-es will sur-round them, Your



arms are a-round them. Their chil-dren will be blessed through-out their days!—

Leader:

Even in darkness, You are with those

who are gracious, kind and true.

Their hearts are fast in the knowledge

of their strength and victory through You.

Verse 2 (All):



Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech 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 made not with persuasive 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 being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, 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"—

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.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

WOV Setting 5

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Children’s Hymn #65 (maroon hymnal)

“This Little Light of Mine”

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Silence for reflection and meditation.

Hymn of the Day #405 (green hymnal)

“Lord of Light”

Please stand as you are able.

The Apostles’ Creed

A: Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

After the last petition:

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Invitation to Offering

A: You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world (*Mt. 5:13-14*). Let your light shine by giving your offering, so that others may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Offering

WOV Setting 5

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were

sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we

of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,

Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: 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.

The Meal

Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

WOV Setting 5

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. 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: 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.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

Please be seated.

Agnus Dei

WOV Setting 5

☐ 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

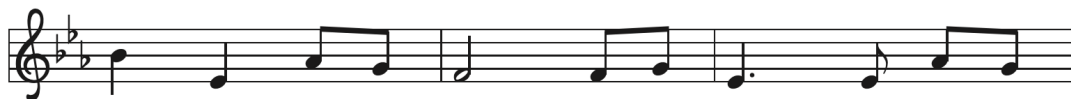
P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

Those who wish to commune at the communion station in the front of the sanctuary may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.

Hymn: "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"



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



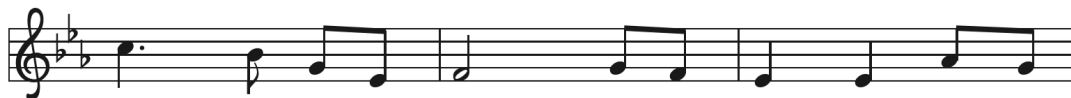
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



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.



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.

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

WOV Setting 5

☐ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

Sending

Announcements for God's Mission in the World

Please stand as you are able.

Blessing

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.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn #649 (blue hymnal)

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

The Annual Meeting, which was snowed out in January, has been rescheduled for February 15 after worship.

Lenten Meals: We would like to make 6 pm supper available prior to our Mid-week Holden Evening Prayer services during Lent, and we are in need of YOUR help to make that possible! Each week volunteers need to bring food and to clean up after dinner. If you are interested in making midweek Lenten suppers happen this year, then please sign up online or in the narthex.

Lenten Devotionals: We would like to publish a devotional made of members' reflections on their favorite hymns. Please write your reflections to the prompts below and email your answer to mail@stpaulreading.org or put it on Jane's desk before Feb 13.

1. What is one of your favorite hymns? Why? What do you love about this hymn?
2. Share a story or memory from your life about this hymn. Did it speak to you at a particular time? How do you hear God encourage you through it?

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, Feb. 8: 5 Epiphany

9 am Adult Christian Education:

Prayer and Meditation

10 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

Tuesday, Feb. 10

11 am Bible Study: Travel the Bible

Friday, Feb. 13

Deadline for submitting Lenten devotionals

Sunday, Feb. 15: Transfiguration of Our Lord

9 am Adult Christian Education:

Prayer and Meditation

10 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

After worship: Annual Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 17

11 am Bible Study: Travel the Bible

Wednesday, Feb. 18

6 pm Lenten Potluck Dinner

7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Saturday, Feb. 21

8 am Collaborative Leadership Training

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Nancy Erbeck, Assisting Minister

Marie Calhoun, Reader

Carroll Mayhugh, Livestreamer