

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
February 5, 2023



First Lutheran Church
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UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Melissa Schwartz

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another**

for the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Gather Us In” ELW #532
(Vs. 1 & 2)

GREETING

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

ELW page 147

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

RECOGNITION OF TEACHERS/GIGG GUIDES

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

CHOIR ANTHEM

The Little Light of Mine
Arr. Neil A. Johnson

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING—Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-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.

¹Shout 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 delight to draw near to God.

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.

⁴Look, 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.

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 thongs 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.

[^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if 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.

¹¹The 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.

¹²Your 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!

SECOND READING—1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words 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 not with plausible 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 doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; 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” —

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being 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. ¹²Now 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. [¹³And 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.

¹⁴Those 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. ¹⁵Those 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

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” ELW #512

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Where love can grow and peace is understood.

The Holy Gospel according to the fifth chapter of Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[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. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In 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. ¹⁸For 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. ¹⁹Therefore, 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. ²⁰For 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

MESSAGE

Rev. Samuel Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

***“Go, Make Disciples”* ELW #540**

THE APOSTLE'S 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**

THE PRAYERS

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence.

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, such as systemic racism and church sanction of colonialism.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW page 152

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy ELW page 153

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 COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God!

Lamb of God ELW page 146

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,

we thank you for the healing

that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice,

love kindness,

and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

*"God, Whose Almighty Word" ELW #673
(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAST WEEK FOR SIGNING-UP

Pictorials—Church pictorials sign up is available online for families to schedule photos for the church directory and Nikki Kiemele will also be in the gathering space before and after services over the next few weeks to sign people up as well.

THANK YOU

GNH/GIGG/FLY—Teacher Recognition

GNH

Tiffany Vanden Einde

Kari Braun

Brittany Mailleue

Ally Handy

Cooper Vanden Einde

MEALSCOORDINATOR

Heather Haemig

GIGG

Mike Johnson

Marsha Sullivan

Marci Greisen

FLY

Rena Sater

Becky Pollack

GIGG/FLY - On Wednesday, February 15th, at 6:30 the Minnesota Drug Task Force will be at First to talk about the dangers of drugs. In the interest of our youth, we are also inviting parents of the youth to attend should they like to so that they can be aware of what was talked about and can follow up with their youth should they like to. This special event will be open to all youth in grades 5-12.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
1-29-23	\$425	\$4,431
YTD	\$15,978	\$22,153

YTD Financial Actual Through month of December			
Date	Income	Expenses	Net Gain (Loss)
12-31-2022	\$235,612	\$207,225	\$28,387

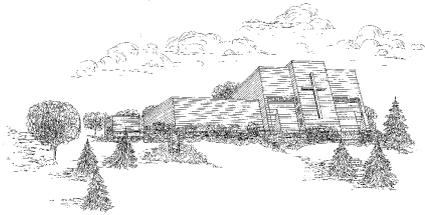
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Shift Worship—Pro Membership
Expires 11-2-2022



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, February 5	9:00a 10:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion First Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, February 8	6:00p 6:30p	Meal—GNH/GIGG/FLY GNH/GIGG/FLY
Sunday, February 12	9:00a 10:00a 2:00p	Worship First Choir Rehearsal MN River Conference Annual Mtg/First

Worship Assistants

February 5, 2023

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Sallie Nesbit
Reader:	Edrie Barton
Communion Asst:	Riley Sater, Joan May
Usher:	Chuck Frauendienst
Greeters:	John Miller
Council Member:	Tiffany Vanden Einde
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	John Miller Joan May
Altar Guild:	Marcie Allen Jan Rhode

February 12, 2023

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Evan Hoffman
Reader:	Cathey Fullerton
Usher:	Bob & Joan Reasoner
Greeters:	
Council Member:	Mike Johnson
Fellowship:	Millers, Alinders & Tolzmanns
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Joan May Bob Bartle
Altar Guild:	Marcie Allen Jan Rhode