

FEBRUARY 8, 2026



# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*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.*

## PRELUDE

# THE GATHERING

## WELCOME

## OPENING SONG

### Glory (Let There Be Peace)

Chris Stevens, Matt Maher, Rachel Popadic

#### Verse 1

One star burns in the darkness,  
shines with a promise, Emmanuel  
One child born in the stillness,  
living within us, Emmanuel

#### Chorus 1

#### Verse 2

One voice speaks for the voiceless,  
hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel  
One love brings us together,  
now and forever, Emmanuel

#### Chorus 1

#### Bridge

Do not be afraid, His love is strong enough to save us  
Nothing stands in the way, His love is strong enough to lead us  
Do not be afraid, His love is strong enough to save us  
Nothing stands in the way, His love is strong enough to lead us

#### Chorus 2

#### Chorus 1

We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let there be peace  
We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let it start in me

#### Chorus 2

We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let there be peace  
We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let it start in me  
We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let there be peace  
We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let it start in me  
We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let it start in me

## ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, <sup>†</sup> one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence For Reflection*

A: 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.**

A: 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 <sup>†</sup> Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**C: Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*We receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. You may greet one another and say "peace be with you" or similar words.*

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

**C: And also with you.**

## INSTALLATION OF LEAD COUNCIL

*(11:00 am)*

## GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

P: Let us pray together,

**C: 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.**

# THE WORD

## This Little Light of Mine

### Verse 1

This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

### Verse 2

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### A RESPONSIVE READING

### PSALM 112:1-10

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)*

L: Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in God's commandments!

**C: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

L: Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

**C: Light shines in the darkness or the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

L: It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

**C: For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

L: They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

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

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

**C: The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

### A READING FROM

### 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-12

*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.*

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

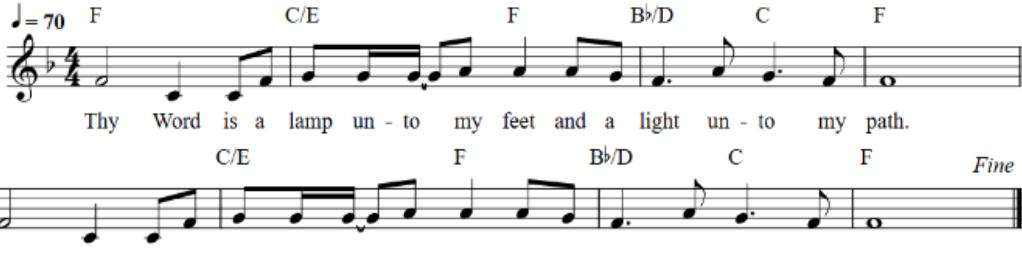
Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 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"—God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 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. 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.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Thy Word**



Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

5

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

Fine

#### THE GOSPEL READING

#### MATTHEW 5:13-20

*(Congregation standing)*

L: The Holy Gospel of St. Matthew, beginning in the fifth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "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.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 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. 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.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 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. 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. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS

### MOMENT OF REFLECTION ON THE GOOD NEWS

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### Let Streams of Living Justice (ELW 710)



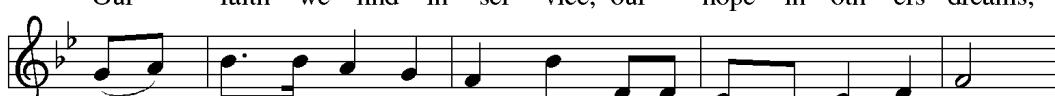
1 Let streams of living justice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For healing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end;  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



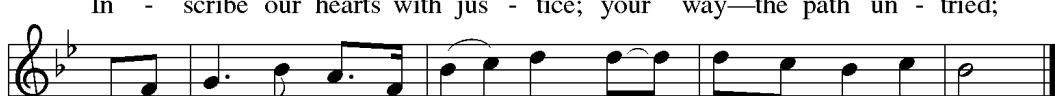
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.



O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

#### 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 into hell. 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 THE PEOPLE

A: 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.

*Each petition shall conclude with:*

A: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*The Prayers conclude:*

A: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## THE MEAL

#### THE OFFERING

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

#### THE OFFERTORY

#### God Gave to Me a Life to Live

1 God gave to me a life to live;  
2 When I am helped to see what's good, and  
gave me hands with which to give; God gave a heart with  
led to do the things I should, I thank you, car - ing  
which to care; God gave me love that I might share.  
God a - bove, for life and hands and heart and love.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of majesty,

**C: 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

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!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*We practice "Open Communion," acknowledging that Jesus welcomes all persons, sinners and saints alike, to the table. All means ALL. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Sacrament in a continuous line, exiting by the side aisles.*

**Communion is by intinction.** We offer a chalice of wine and a chalice of white grape juice in which you may dip the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask for them at the altar, if needed. The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen.

*Infants who are not yet ready to receive food will receive a blessing. Parents who have questions about the practice of open communion may instruct their children to receive just a blessing.*

*Communion can be served to those who are not physically able to join us for worship. Please speak with an usher if you know of someone who would desire communion from Sunday's table brought to them.*

## LAMB OF GOD



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 SONG

Build A Longer Table (ACS 1062)

1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,

feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.

Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.

Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel-come here.  
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**C: Amen.**

# THE SENDING

## INSTALLATION OF LEAD COUNCIL

(9:00 am)

## THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son <sup>†</sup>, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

**Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly**  
Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Pat Barrett

### Verse 1

It all comes down to this  
What you require of me  
Love my neighbor as myself  
And You above all things

### Chorus

### Verse 2

It all comes down to this  
To be Your hands and feet  
Good news to all the world  
The truth will set us free

### Chorus / Bridge 2x

### Verse 3

Years from now we'll see  
The fruit our hands have sown  
Faith just like a seed  
The only way it grows

### Chorus

Act justly love mercy walk humbly  
With You God  
In all things in all ways walk humbly  
With You God

### Bridge

It's beauty for ashes  
It's mourning to dancing  
It's closer and closer  
The Kingdom of heaven

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSED AND SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine...

**C: I'm gonna let it shine!**

A: As much as we might try to pretend that we don't need reminders, we know we all do.

Today we are reminded that we are salt and light. The world may cloud that identity from time to time, but God always calls us back to God's kingdom. Reminded of our identity, we are sent out to make the world a better place. We do this until...

**C: Everyone knows that God loves them!**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUIDE



*If you are worshipping with us at 9:00 am we kindly ask that you leave your bulletin on the back table on your way out for those that are worshipping at 11:00 am if you did not make notes. We wish to be good stewards of our environment and resources.*

*\*\* Our services are live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. We also utilize images from our services and activities on our website. If you do not want images of you or your family on our website, please inform us via an email to [communications@epiphany-suwanee.org](mailto:communications@epiphany-suwanee.org).*



# EPIPHANY

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am (in-person and online)

**Ministers:** The People of God

**Pastor:** Chris Hermansen

**Minister of Youth:** Kris Perkola

**Director of Worship and Music:** Steve Belfield, Interim

**Worship Production:** Steve Belfield

**Worship Accompanist:** Anna Keiserman, Ph. D.

**Church Administrator:** Bonnie Bradbury

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##### Glory (Let There Be Peace)

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##### This Little Light of Mine

Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress Text & Music: Public Domain

##### Thy Word

CCLI Song # 14301  
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##### Let Streams of Living Justice (ELW 710)

Text © 1989 William Whittle  
Text: William Whittle, b. 1934  
Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934  
Music Public Domain  
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##### God Gave to Me a Life to Live

Text: Anonymous  
Music: PIER NOBIS, European tune,  
Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

##### Lamb of God

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four  
admin. Augsburg Fortress Text & Music: Public Domain

##### Build A Longer Table (ACS 1062)

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.  
Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984  
Music: French carol (Public Domain)

##### Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly (CCLI #7168697)

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#### Financial Giving Options



SCAN ME

- ◆ Text EPIPHANYGA to 73256
- ◆ Use your bank's online bill pay feature to set up recurring giving
- ◆ Mail a check to Epiphany
- ◆ Drop it in the offering plate on Sunday

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