

**EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, February 8, 2026**  
Traditional Worship  
Austin Campus 9:00 AM, Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Gather

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**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MINISTRY MOMENT:** *DAY OF CARING*

*Sharon Bond/Laurie Griffin*

**PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

P: Please stand as you are able.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

# OPENING HYMN: GATHER US IN

#532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Word

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## **WELCOMING THE CHILDREN**

### **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 58:1-12**

<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.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION**

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

5  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life.      Al - le - lu - - ia!

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

**GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 5:13-20 (The Message\*)**

<sup>13</sup> “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

<sup>14-16</sup> “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

<sup>17-18</sup> “Don’t suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God’s Law or the Prophets. I’m not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God’s Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God’s Law will be alive and working.

<sup>19-20</sup> “Trivialize even the smallest item in God’s Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won’t know the first thing about entering the kingdom.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

\*Scripture taken from THE MESSAGE: THE BIBLE IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH, ©1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group

## HYMN OF THE DAY: YOU ARE THE SEED (vv. 1-2)



You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine in the night;



you are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a bea-con to glow in the dark.



You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear gold-en grain;



you are a sting and a soft, gen-tle touch, to wit-ness where-ev - er you go.



Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim the great love of God;



mes - sen-gers to tell the way of life, peace and par - don for all.



Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness, from the dead Christ a - rose;



"Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er-more, till the end of the world."



You are the flame that will light-en the dark, so re - splen-dent with hope, faith and love;



you are the shep-herds to lead the whole world to wa-ters and pas-tures of peace.



"You are the friends that I chose for my-self, you're the word that I want to pro - claim.



You are the new reign of God built on rock, where jus-tice and truth are at home."



Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim the great love of God;



mes - sen-gers to tell the way of life, peace and par - don for all.



Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness, from the dead Christ a - rose;



"Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er-more, till the end of the world."

Words and Music by Cesareo Gabarain © 1979 C.G. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved. English Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. Music Services.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A:** Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C:** 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 THE CHURCH** *(after each petition...)*

**A:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

Meal

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**OFFERING:** *THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE* (arr. Howard Helvey)    *Epiphany Chorale*



4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

## OFFERING PRAYER

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: NFC

*Presider:* The — Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And — al - so with  
 you. *Presider:* Lift up your hearts. *Congregation:* We  
 lift them to the Lord. *Presider:* Let us give  
 thanks to the Lord our God. *Congregation:* It is  
 right to give God thanks and praise.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

### **THE 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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*If you are unable to attend worship due to health concerns, please contact the church office to be included on the homebound list.*

*Christ welcomes you to the meal of grace! All who desire to receive Christ's nourishment and grace may join us at the Lord's Table. (9:00) Please come to the table by the center aisle and return to your seat by the front or side aisle. Communion is by intinction; dip the bread in the red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. (10:30) Please come to the table by the diagonal aisle and return to your seat by the center or a front aisle. Communion is by intinction; dip the wafer in the red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available at the front of the center aisle.*

# COMMUNION HYMN: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

#715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



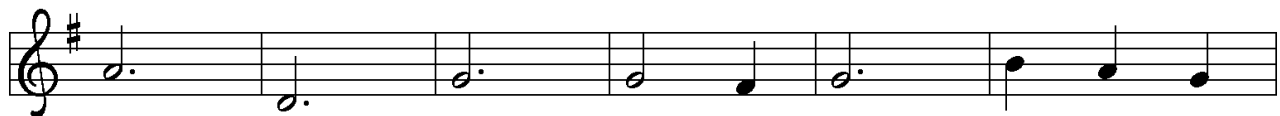
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

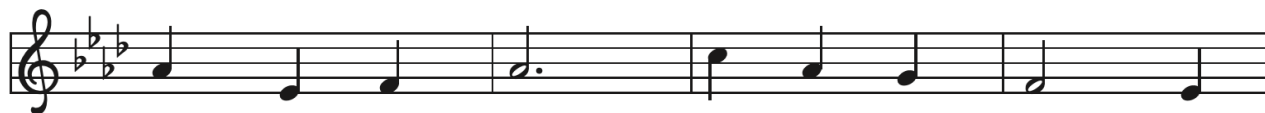
Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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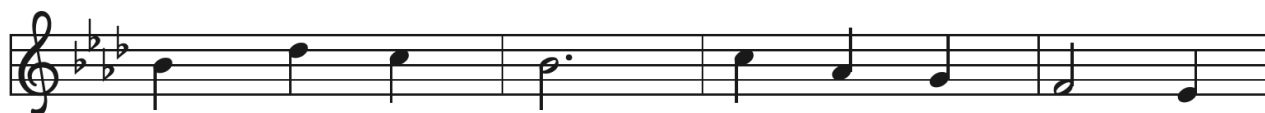
## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

**BENEDICTION****CLOSING HYMN: GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS (vv. 1-3)**

1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

## SENDING

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Serving in Worship

#### Austin Campus 9:00 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer

Pianist: John Benjamin

Lay Reader: Jim Lehman

#### Far Hills Campus 10:30 AM

Presiding Minister: Pastor Corey Wagonfield

Assisting Minister: Judith Clark

Organist: John Benjamin

Sound: Ted Meyer

Ushers: Karen & Phil Nardi

Communion: William Deel, Noel Greiman, Kathy Hibbs,  
Lisa Miller, Mary Moenter