

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026



**Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

**10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134**

*"Celebrating and sharing God's Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others"*

*Worship 9:00 a.m.*

***Bold type*** indicates Congregational responses.

\* Congregation please stand as you are comfortable

## **Introduction**

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.

***Welcome to Lord of Love! We are the body of Christ, and we are not whole without you.***

**Visitors:** We're so glad you're here, and we'd love the opportunity to connect with you! Text WELCOME to 402-493-2946 so we can follow up with you.

**Nursery:** The nursery (just off the Narthex) is open during worship. Please know that children are always welcome in the Sanctuary for worship. Quiet toy bags are available from the ushers.

**Offering:** An offering plate is at the back of the Sanctuary, and gifts may be placed there. Children may put their offering in the noise jar during the offering song.

**Communion:** Everyone is welcome at communion. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking a communion server. In the communion trays, the wine is red and grape juice is white.

**Prayer Requests:** If you have a prayer request, you can text PRAY to 402-493-2946.

**Fellowship:** Donuts and coffee are available in the Narthex after worship. Please join us!

**Prelude** "More Precious than Silver"..... DeShazo/Nelson

## Announcements

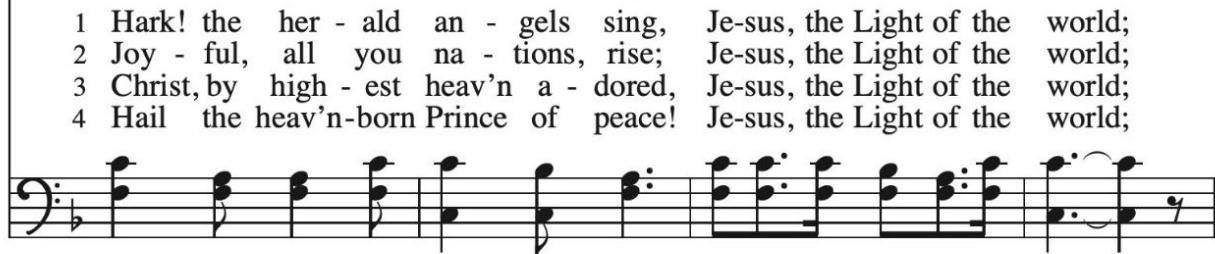
**Bell Choir "Borning Cry".....** arr. Suzanne M. Hibbard

## Ringing of the Bell

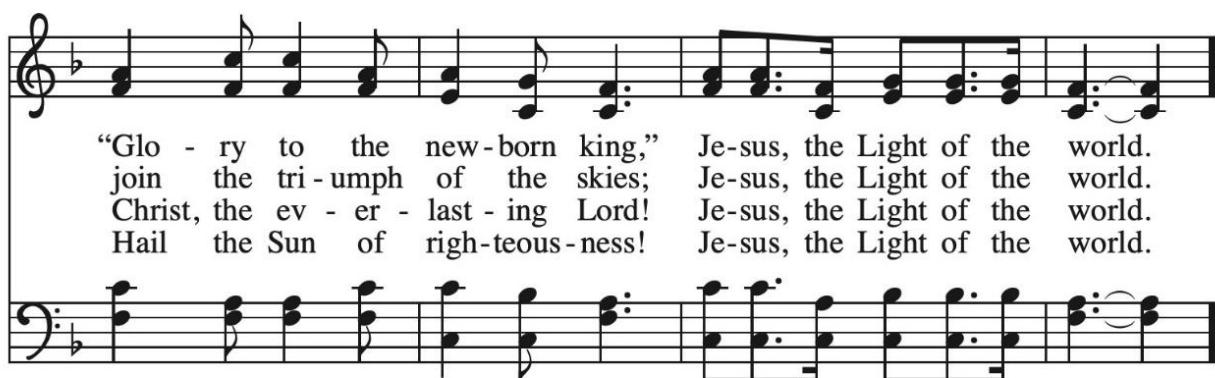
**\*Gathering Song: "Jesus the Light of the World" .....** ELW 914



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

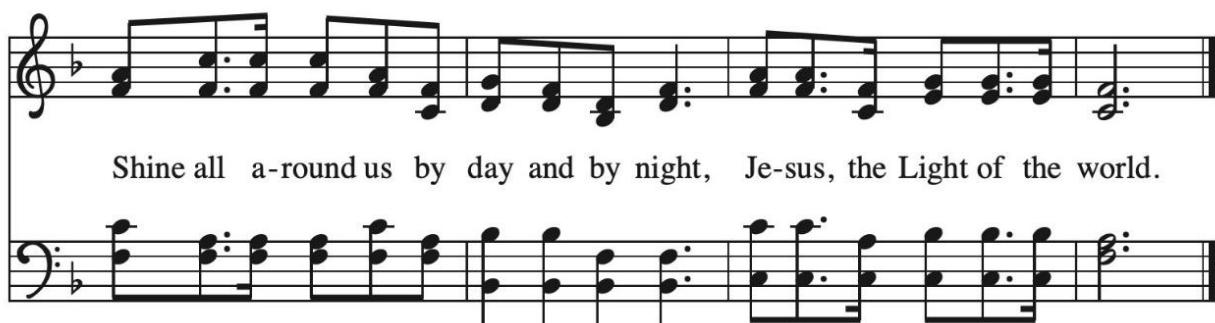


*Refrain*

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.



**\*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.**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In this season of light, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of Love and Light,

**We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be.**

**We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others**

**while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark.**

**We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated and judgmental.**

**We inflame others by lashing out in anger.**

**We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt.**

**We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely.**

**Forgive us Jesus, the Everlasting Light.**

**Come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.**

**Teach us to walk as children of light,**

**surrounded by your love, forgiveness and healing.**

**We ask this in the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. **Amen.**

## \*Hymn of Praise

All

1. Your can - o - py of vig - il lights, each  
 2. (You) walk with us a - long the way, your  
 3. (Re) - freshed by sab - bath this day, a -

star your hand has set in place, be - stows a bless - ing  
 Word, a lamp to pil - grim feet; stay with us now for  
 wak - en us to your sha - lom: the reign of Christ's un -

on our life, and all cre - a - tion sings your and  
 each new day, our un - known guest, our host are  
 fail - ing way, where peace and jus - tice at

praise. You formed the moon and fired the sun, you  
 feast. Grant those who share this ho - ly meal the  
 home and saints need nei - ther moon nor sun to

quick - ened dust with ho - ly breath, and  
 faith and vi - sion to be lieve that  
 sing your praise e - ter - nal ly, O

bind - ing us to your dear Son, re -  
 hearts might see what eyes con - seal:  
 mer - ci - ful, im - mor - tal One, by O

1, 2. 3.

newed our life, de - stroyed our - death. 2. You  
 grace your pres - ence we re - ceive. 3. Re  
 bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

L: 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**Choir Anthem:** “*Lift Your Light*”..... Mary McDonald  
Josh Lund – Bass and Luke Compton - Percussion

**First Reading:** *Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]*

L: 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.

    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.

“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.

    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.

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?

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?

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?

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.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

    you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

[If you remove the yoke from among you,  
    the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
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.

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.

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.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

L: 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. [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.

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

"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**

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

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon** ..... Rev. Bob Oleson

**Sermon** ..... Rev. Bob Oleson

**Hymn of the Day: “Rise, Shine You People”** ..... ELW 665

### **\*The Apostles' Creed**

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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**

L: 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.

*A brief silence.*

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving. We especially pray for those on our prayer list and those whose names and needs we lift up now.... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love.  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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.**

**\*Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share signs of peace with one another.*

*Please be seated.*

## Offering

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or given electronically at [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org). Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar during this song.

Communion servers, please come forward during the offertory song.

All

1. By your hand you feed your people, food of  
2. In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for  
3. Send us now with faith and cour-age to the  
an - gels, heav-en's bread; for these gifts we did not  
hun - ger, wine of peace; ho - ly Word and ho - ly  
hun - gry, lost, be - reaved. In our liv - ing and our  
la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:  
wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:  
Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er-  
flow-ing, life out - poured, giv-en as a liv - ing  
to - ken of your world re-deemed, re - stored.

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

**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 Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### **\*Words of Institution**

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath. Generations bless your faithfulness: through the waters, across the wilderness, by night and day, out of exile, into the future. We give you thanks for your Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

On the night 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 remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, upon this bread, within this cup, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God, for your mercy, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your Church, without end.

**Amen.**

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered around the table by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Communion Invitation**

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

### **Lamb of God**

All

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

1., 2.

world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

3.

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Communion Music "Brightest and Best of the Stars" ..... Harding/Nelson**

### **Communion**

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Creator of our days and nights, we give you thanks for this gift of life. Increase our faith and open our eyes that we might recognize Jesus in all whom you call us to love and serve. Abide with us when we struggle and doubt and be our hope and highest joy, until at last with all your saints we dwell in your unfailing Light.

**Amen.**

### **\*Benediction**

P: Holy God, Blessed Trinity, strengthen your faith, increase your hope, deepen your love,  $\ddagger$  and give you peace this day and always.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:** “*We Are Marching in the Light*” ..... ELW 866

### **\*Dismissal**

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

**Thanks be to God!**

### ***Ringing of the Bell***

**Postlude** “*Siyahamba*” (*We are Marching in the Light of God*) ..... arr. Glick

**Jesus the Light of the World**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain

Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin

**Unfailing Light Liturgy**

By Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

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**By Your Hand You Feed Your People**

By Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

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