

*Salt, Light, and the Bible*

Matthew 5:13-20

*First Lutheran Church*

February 8, 2026

**Epiphany 5**

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*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.*

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

SIYAHAMBA

Karl Osterland

*Variations on We Are Marching in the Light of Christ*

(Please stand)

## MORNING PRAYER

### OPENING DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY



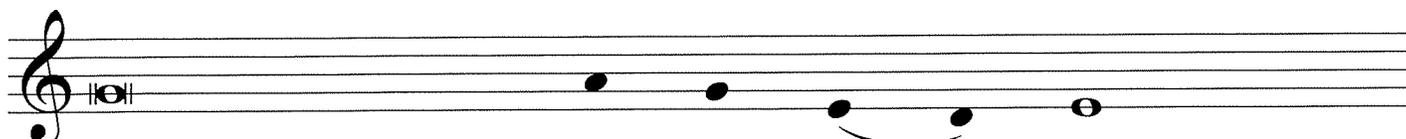
Leader: O Lord, o - pen my lips,



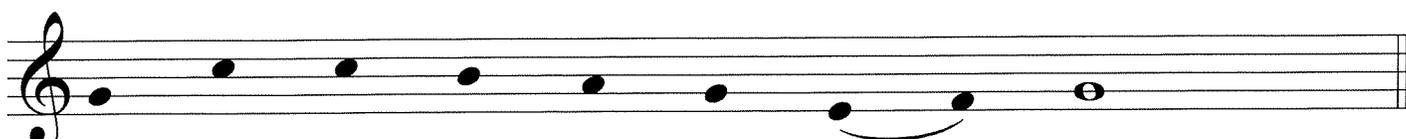
and my mouth shall pro - claim your praise.



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,



and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** 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.

*(Please be seated)*

*++ Children may attend Sunday School*

## **FIRST READING**

**ISAIAH 58:1-12**

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.

*R: A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-eighth chapter.*

<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>9</sup> 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, <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.

*R: The word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**

**1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

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.

*R: A reading from 1 Corinthians, the second chapter.*

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> 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"—<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. <sup>16</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

*R: The word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Cantor: Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the light | of the world;\* whoever follows me will have the | light of life. Alleluia. (John 8:12)*

## GOSPEL READING

**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.

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.*



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>“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. <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

P: *The gospel of the Lord.*

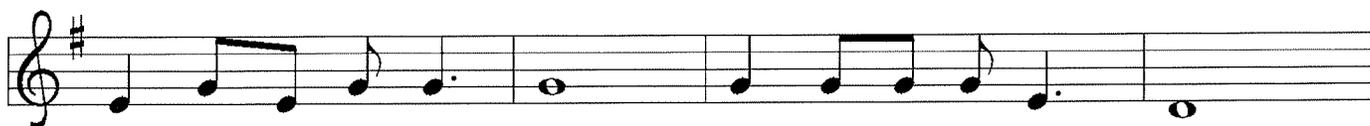


Praise to you O Christ!

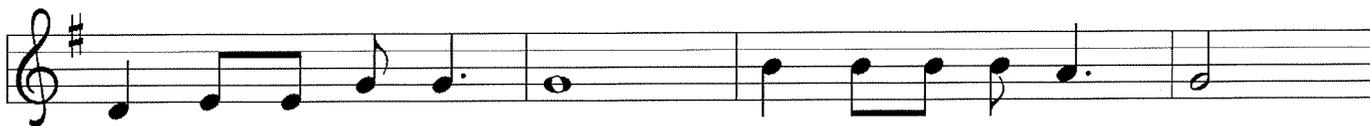
**HYMN OF THE DAY**



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

*(Please be seated)*

**REFLECTION**

**PRESIDING MINISTER: REVEREND LARRY MICHAELS**

*(Please stand)*

## CANTICLE

*Refrain*

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our  
God the dawn from on high shall  
break up - on us.

*The Cantor will sing the verses*

## 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.

*(Please kneel)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church,  
the whole human community, and the earth.

*A brief silence.*

L: 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 the world.

*Each petition concludes:*

**P: Merciful God,  
C: receive our prayer.**

P: 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.**

*(Please be seated)*

**OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION**

SIYHAMBBA

*John A. Behnke*

*Three Global Songs*

*I. We Are Marching in the Light of Christ*

*(Please stand)*



**ALL** 1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
*Women* 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 Cantor 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
**MEN** 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
**ALL** 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



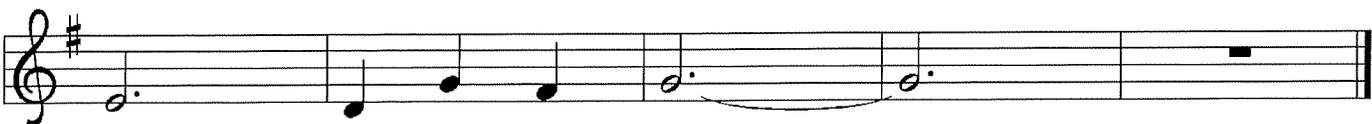
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*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.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

L: Let us pray.

God of majesty,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet 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.

**C: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C: 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.**

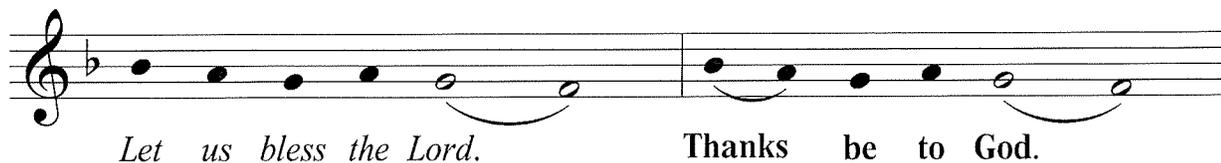
**SENDING**

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

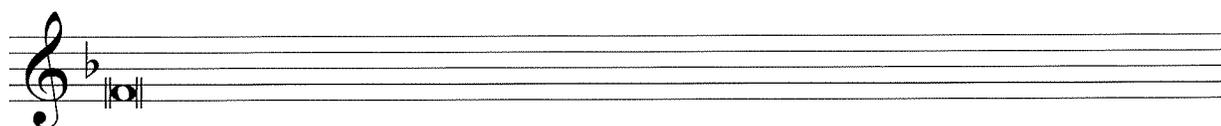
**C: Oh God,  
your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.  
We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us through the years,  
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.  
Bless our community of faith, bless our healing,  
bless the changes that are before us, bless our pastoral leaders**

who will shepherd us through this time of transition.  
 We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us  
 as we align with your will, and servant or servants  
 you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time.  
 Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future.  
 In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
 our Savior and Lord, Amen.

**BLESSING**



Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.



May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise



+ bless you now and for - ev - er.



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

**SENDING SONG**

*We Are Marching in the Light of Christ*

ELW # 866



We are march - ing in the light of God,  
 We are danc - ing  
 We are sing - ing  
 we are march-ing in the light of God.  
 danc - ing  
 sing - ing

We are march - ing in the light of God,  
danc - ing  
sing - ing

we are march-ing in the light of God.  
danc - ing  
sing - ing

We are march-ing Oo  
danc - ing  
sing - ing

we are march-ing in the light of God.  
danc - ing  
sing - ing

We are march-ing Oo  
danc - ing  
sing - ing

We are march-ing in the light of God.  
danc - ing  
sing - ing

**DISMISSAL**

- P: Go in peace.
- L: Do justice.
- P: Go in joy.
- C: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

SIYAHAMBA

Daryl Hollinger  
South African Trilogy

## Events in Review

<u>Sunday</u>	Feb. 8
10:00AM	Church Service
<u>Monday</u>	Feb. 9
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Feb. 10
<u>Wednesday</u>	Feb. 11
9:00 AM	PIECE CORP
6:00 PM	Property Meeting
<u>Thursday</u>	Feb. 12
<u>Friday</u>	Feb. 13
<u>Saturday</u>	Feb. 14

### Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	Feb 15
10:00AM	Church Service
<u>Monday</u>	Feb 16
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	NO Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Feb 17
<u>Wednesday</u>	Feb 18
7:00 PM	ASH WEDNESDAY
<u>Thursday</u>	Feb 19
<u>Friday</u>	Feb 20
<u>Saturday</u>	Feb 21



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green

### Service

February 18, 2026

7:00 PM



Installation of 2026  
Council Members

Feb. 22nd during service



Sign up sheet for  
Lent Wednesday's  
Soup, Bread or Rolls  
& Desserts is on the  
table in the hallway

*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

February 15, 2026

w/Potato Bar to follow



Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Information Board. Fellowship time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are needed each week.

## Contact Us



## First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore Street

Tiffin, Ohio 44883

419-447-1323

[www.firstlutherantiffin.com](http://www.firstlutherantiffin.com)

[firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com)

## Interim Pastor

**Pastor Mark Schuring**

(740) 360-2306

[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

## Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Deb & Jonathan Nominee

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Facebook Camera: The Rosses

Host: Judy Kimmel

Reader: Shelley Ross

Worship Assistant: Shelley Ross

Director of Music: Curtis L. King

Minister: Pastor Larry Michaels

## Emergency Pastors

**Pastor Mark Schuring**

(740) 360-2306

**Mike Porter**

(585) 813-5009

**Pastor Philip Scherr**

(814) 756-9435

## Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,  
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”

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February 8, 2026