



# Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Siyahamba" ("We Are Marching in the Light of God") arr. John Behnke

## Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. We light this candle as a sign that Christ has come and Christ will come again. As the light pushes back darkness let us walk with, learn from, and worship Jesus Christ.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

**All: He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.**

Liturgist: Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. *John 1:9-13*

Choir: "Light of the World" by Pino, arr. Kornelis

You are the light of the world. You are the light of the world,  
so shine, shine, shine where you are. You are the light of the world.

You are a city on a hill...  
You are a candle in the dark...  
You are a star in the night...  
You are the light of the world...

\* GOD'S GREETING

Minister: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

**All:** **We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son,  
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

*John 1:14*

\* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

\* **All Singing:** **529 "Gather Us In"**  
*Singing verses 1, 2, and 4*

*Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing  
before they leave for "God Loves Me" and "Children in Worship."*

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

## Reconciliation

Liturgist A: Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet.  
Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.  
For day after day, they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways,

Liturgist B: As if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the  
commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to  
come near them.

Liturgist A: Why have we fasted, they say, and you have not seen it?  
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?

Liturgist B: Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers.  
Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked  
fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.

Liturgist A: Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves?  
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is  
that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

### *Silent Confession and Reflection*

Liturgist B: Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and  
untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Liturgist A: Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with  
shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your  
own flesh and blood?

Liturgist B: Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your  
rear guard.

Liturgist A: Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say:  
Here am I. *Isaiah 58:1-9*

\* **All Singing:** **869 "Here I Am, Lord"**

Liturgist A: If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Liturgist B: The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. *Isaiah 58:9-12*

Choir: "Can We Sing the Darkness to Light" Kyle Pederson

What if instead of more violence we let our weapons fall silent?  
No more revenge or retribution, no more war or persecution.  
It could be beautiful.

What if instead of our judgment we soften our hearts that have hardened?  
Instead of certainty and pride we love and sacrifice.  
It could be beautiful.

Can we see the other as our brother? Can we sing the darkness to light?  
Sounding chords of compassion and grace set the swords of judgement aside,  
let mercy's eyes see the other human face.

## Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**All Singing: 746 "Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"**

Scripture: I Corinthians 2:1-16

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: An Audacious Claim

\* **All Singing: 334 "May the Mind of Christ, My Savior"**

## Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. Chicagoland Prison Outreach

OFFERTORY "Near to the Heart of God / Children of the Heavenly Father" arr. Brant Adams

\* **All Singing: 965 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## Sending

### \* BENEDICTION

Minister: You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

**All: You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.**

Minister: In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:13-15*

**All: Amen.**

\* **All Singing: 930 “This Little Light of Mine”**  
*Singing a cappella*

Postlude: “Thy Word” arr. John Carter

### Worship Leaders

Organist:	Dora Diephouse	Acolyte:	Adam Post
Pianist / Accompanist:	Anna Triezenberg-Sims	Liturgists:	Mary & Lily Post
Cellist:	Adeline Larsen	Prayer:	Nate Pettinga
Percussion:	Clay Carlson		
Choir Director:	David Baar		
Minister:	Roger Nelson		

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