



# Salt & Light

## **Saint Peter's Lutheran Church**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**2570 St. Peter's Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28146**

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## Fifth Sunday After Epiphany: February 8<sup>h</sup>, 2026

\* Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation, A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

\*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**\*C: Amen.**

\*P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

\*P: 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 ✠ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**\*C: Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

\*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.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*P: 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. **\*C: Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

L: A reading from Isaiah the 58<sup>th</sup> 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>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.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalms 112:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast

forever;

they will hold up their head with honor.

**<sup>10</sup> The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

\*The Holy Gospel Matthew 5:13-20  
[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."

\*P: The Gospel of our Lord. **\*C: Praise to you, O Christ**

## Children's Sermon

HYMN OF DAY

This Little Light of Mine

ELW 677

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

\*A: Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**\*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 INTERCESSION**

\*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.

*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, **\*C: 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, **\*C: 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 especially Gaza, Israel, and Ukraine. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God, **\*C: 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 Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Jerry Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, Brenda H. Trexler, Judy Peeler, Lynn DeBerry, Marcia Ritchie, Jean Holshouser, Phyllis Trexler, Sue Misenheimer, Thelma Barger, Buddy Waller, Ronnie Pierce, Mary Miller, Friends of St. Peter's and those we hold in our hearts or speak aloud now...*(pause)*. Merciful God, **\*C: 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, **\*C: 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, **\*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.**

## **PEACE**

**\*P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

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

**\*P:** Let us share the peace with one another.

## **THE OFFERING**

### **Anthem**

**Offering Hymn Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow ELW 884**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**\*A:** 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

## **MEAL**

## **PREFACE DIALOGUE**



\*P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### \*C: Holy, Holy, Holy



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

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

**\*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.

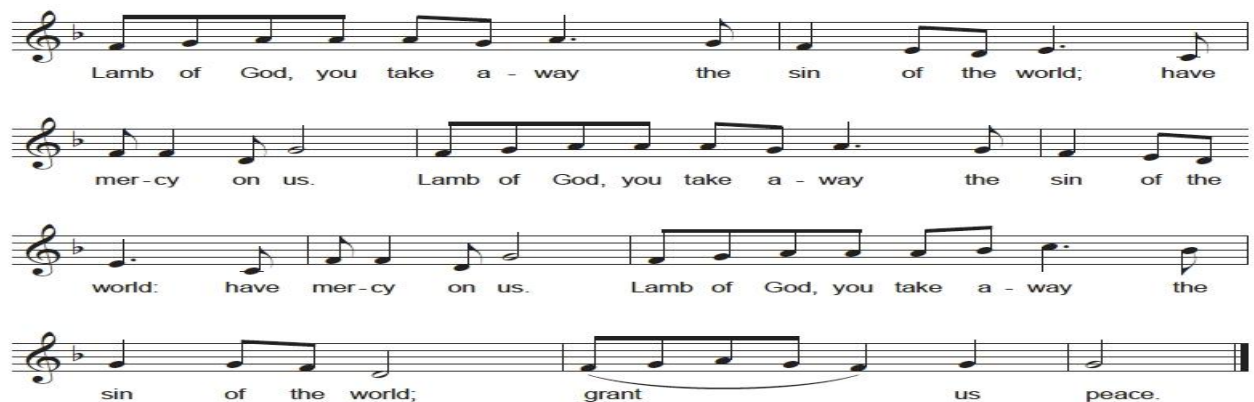
### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

\*C: Thanks be to God.

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

#### LAMB OF GOD



### COMMUNION BLESSING

\*P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*A: Let us pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

\*C: Amen.

### SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

#### BLESSING

\*P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever.

\*C: Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**We Are Marching In the Light**

**ELW 866**

**THE DISMISSAL**

**\*A:** Rooted in the love of Christ

**\*C: We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken World!**

**\*P:** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**\*C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*Silent Prayer and Chiming of the Trinity*

*Postlude*