

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Greeley, CO

www.greeleylutheran.org

5th Sunday after Epiphany – February 5, 2023 – 8:15 & 10:40 A.M.

We rejoice in your presence with us today at this service of Holy Communion.

Please silence cell phones and pagers during worship.

*ELW = red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP hymnal
Hymn numbers (#) refer to the main hymn section
The congregation's response is printed in **BOLD type***

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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE (8:15)

Partita on "Thy Strong Word" (Theme / Fanfare)

John A. Behnke

GATHERING MUSIC (10:40)

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves.

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us,

that we may be reconciled to one another

for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Thus says our God:

"The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare."

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

Amen.

* HYMN (8:15)

"Thy Strong Word" (stanzas 1-3; 6)

ELW # 511

* SONG (10:40)

"10,000 Reasons" (Bless the Lord)

insert

*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

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.

WORD

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.

¹Shout 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.
²Yet 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 delight to draw near to God.
³“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.
⁴Look, 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.
⁵Is 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?
⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷Is 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?
⁸Then 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.
^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112:1-9 (*read responsively with leader*)

NEW LIVING translation

¹Praise the LORD!
How joyful are those who fear the LORD
and delight in obeying God's commands.
²**Their children will be successful everywhere;
an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.**
³They themselves will be wealthy,
and their good deeds will last forever.
⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the godly.
They are generous, compassionate, and righteous.**
⁵Good comes to those who lend money generously
and conduct their business fairly.
⁶**Such people will not be overcome by evil.
Those who are righteous will be long remembered.**
⁷They do not fear bad news;
they confidently trust the LORD to care for them.
⁸**They are confident and fearless
and can face their foes triumphantly.**
⁹They share freely and give generously to those in need.
Their good deeds will be remembered forever.
They will have influence and honor.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Chad Brown / Vicki Franek

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.

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.
⁶Yet 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 doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, 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”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being 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. ¹²Now 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (8:15)

“Lord, Send Thy Light”
SANCTUARY CHOIR

Mily Balakirev

*GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20 (SPARK Bible page 268)

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.

Response after the announcement: “Glory to you, O Lord!”

[Jesus said:] ¹³“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.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In 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.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For 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. ¹⁹Therefore, 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. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Response after the reading: “Praise to you, O Christ!”

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Silence for reflection

“Really Making a Difference!”

Pastor John Knutson

*HYMN

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW # 715

*APOSTLES' 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 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 (each petition concludes:)

... Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Prayers for healing and strength for: Rob Dinges, Steve Hendricks.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING / PRAYER

Liberating God,

you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.

Receive these offerings in thanksgiving

for all your works of merciful power,

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. / **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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

Communion is open to all who receive it as the presence of Christ. Come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles. For those who wish to abstain from alcohol, white grape juice is available in the center cups. Gluten-free wafers are available by mentioning your preference to the pastor or server. Adults and children who are not communing may come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC: (8:15) “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”
(10:40) “Lord, I Need You”

ELW # 759
insert

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

SENDING

***BLESSING** (response: **“Amen!”**)

***SENDING HYMN** (8:15)

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

ELW # 665
insert

***SENDING SONG** (10:40)

“Go, Make a Difference”

***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL** (response: **“Thanks be to God!”**)

***POSTLUDE** (8:15)

“Thy Strong Word” (Fugue)

Behnke

Please contact the church office at 970-352-4816 if you have specific needs or prayer requests, or if you can help in any way.

Assisting in worship

Pastor: Rev. John Knutson
Minister of Music: Dennis Larson
vocalists: Danaé Rosso, Dion Spencer (10:40)
Mandolin: Pat Kelly
Guitar: Kirk Vogel
bass: Mike Adams
Sound technician: Grey Conderman
Projection: Junior Vanderploeg / Coen Gentry

Streaming / video production: Joshua Matthews / Graden Gentry
Communion assistants: (8:15) Larry Raimer, Jim Wickland
(10:40) Claudia Winter, Barb Schneider, Vicki Franek
Ushers: (8:15) Warren & JoAnn Mitchell
(10:40) Linda & Makaila Carey, Nancy Haffner, Arlene Geary
Altar Guild: Danae Rosso & Debby Baker

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Scripture readings next Sunday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37.

Gather in Grace, Grow in Faith, Serve in Community, Glorify Christ!