

# Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

## Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Wilton, WI  
 Fifth Sunday After Epiphany  
 February 8, 2026  
 10:15 AM

**Inviting People to Journey with Christ's  
 Family In Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*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.*

*\*(Indicates the people should stand as they are able.)*

\*Welcome and Announcements

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Hymn "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" ELW #512**

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

**Amen.**



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

*Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.*

Distribution

**"Lamb of God"**

ELW p. 208

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.  
Amen.

### SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### \*BLESSING

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen**

Hymn

**"God, Whose Almighty Word"**

ELW#673

### \*Prayer of the Day

**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

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

*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.*

#### A Reading from Isaiah 58:1-9a

<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

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to our Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
 that we should at all times and in all places.....

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**ELW p. 207**

Words of Institution

#### LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

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** (Merciful God, receive our prayer.)

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.

#### OFFERING

Offertory Hymn "Let the Vineyards" Back Cover

#### OFFERING PRAYER

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

#### Psalm 112:1-9

- <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.

#### SECOND READING

*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.*

## A reading from 1 Corinthians 1

<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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW p.205**

**\*GOSPEL READING**

*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.*

## The holy gospel according to Matthew 5:13-20

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Karen Sparling

Synod Authorized Minister

**Hymn**

**“This Little Light of Mine”**

**ELW#677**

**\*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.**