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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 9, 2020  
**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.*

\*The Sunday Assembly, Lorraine S. Brugh, Gordon W. Lathrop, Augsburg Fortress, 2008  
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**Gathering**  
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God\**

*Welcome Your Neighbors  
Announcements, followed by  
Prelude.....A time for silent reflection*

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☐ one God,  
the eternal voice from heaven,  
the anointed and beloved one,  
the Spirit moving over the waters.  
**Amen.**

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,  
trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

God who searches us and knows us,

**you have shown us what is good,  
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.  
We have not been just in our dealings with others.  
We have chosen revenge over mercy.  
We have promoted ourselves  
instead of walking humbly with you.  
With what shall we come before you?  
Forgive us our sin,  
and show us your salvation  
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

Beloved of God,  
you have not received the spirit of the world,  
but the Spirit that is from God,  
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.  
Receive the promise of baptism:  
You are God's child;  your sins are forgiven.  
Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.  
**Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn

“Gather Us In”

**ELW #532**

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.**

**\*KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world,

“Grace to You and Peace”, a yearlong devotional journey through the Epistles by Norma Cook Everist has been provided through Wartburg Seminary. We have sent the devotional through e-mail to our members. February and March readings are on the table in the narthex. Extra copies will be made, as needed. Just ask Nalani and she will get a copy to you.

A “Caring for Souls Concert” will be held at 2:00 PM on February 23, 2020, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4141 Mormon Coulee Road, La Crosse. Music will be provided by the Central High School robed choir as well as other musical ensembles from Central. The featured speaker will be Renee Splichal Larson. You will recall Renee and Ben Larson were in Haiti in 2010 when an earthquake struck. Ben did not survive. A spaghetti supper will follow the concert. Please direct your attention to the flyer on the bulletin board for additional information.

You may now contact Pastor Cathleen on a landline, #608-435-0097. This telephone itself is a “Caption Call”. This means a written display of what you are saying is displayed for Pastor to read, and continue the conversation. Be patient, it takes a few seconds for your side of the conversation to be displayed. You may also leave a voice mail message.

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever,

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Additional Contact Information:

### Sending

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

### IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale,  
Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris, Organist: Nalani  
Bever, Greeters: Karen Arzt & Ed Ross, Reader: Barb Bever,  
Altar: Barb Ornes & Lori Brueggen, Communion Server: Leonard Arndt  
Ushers: Lori & Joel Arndt, Barb & John Ornes

### Calendar for February 9-February 16

Today	Cookie Collection for Campus Ministry Church Council	11:30 AM
Mon., Feb. 10	Valentines & Treats for Seniors	10:00 AM
Sun., Feb 16	Sunday School/Confirmation Worship	9:00 AM 10:15 AM
	Children Sing/Noisy Offering Birthday/Anniversary Fellowship Following Service	

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The W-ELCA group will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits again  
this year during lent. While lent is a few weeks off, it’s never too early to  
begin looking for items, especially since sales seem to run frequently.

The following are items needed:

- Towels: Size 20” x 40” to 27” x 52”, light-weight,  
dark colors preferred
- Soap: Bath size bars
- Combs: Sturdy
- Nail Clippers: Metal, with or without nail file
- Toothbrushes (please leave in original packaging)

for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C: Amen.**

\*Canticle of Praise “This is the Feast” ELW p.149

\*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.**

### FIRST READING

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were*

### Word

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

*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.*

### 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 delight to draw near to God.

<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>Look, 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 thongs 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.**

### **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;**

**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.**

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table of mercy and joy.

Distribution

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

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 154

\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Faithful God,  
you have kept your promise to us in this meal,  
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.  
Now send your servants forth in peace,  
that we may testify to your goodness  
and share the hope that is ours  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen**

Benediction

Sending Hymn  
**#677**

“This Little Light of Mine”

**ELW**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Let your light shine.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Katie Wallace, Florence Krause, Bill Collar, Dakota Holiday, Carla Von  
Haden, Ruth Johnson, Bruce Thomure

\*Offertory Prayer

**God of wonder,  
you formed us in our mother’s womb,  
and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine.  
We place them on your table,  
together with our lives and all that you have made.  
Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit.  
We wait for your mercy;  
we long for your peace;  
we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,  
our banquet of life.  
Amen.**

**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.....  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p.153

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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**

**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.*

**1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words 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 not with plausible 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 doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; 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>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For 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. <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.

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

\*Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.151

## GOSPEL READING

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

#### Glory 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>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but 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.”

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

Sermon

\*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 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 (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

### \*PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us show signs of Christ's peace.

## OFFERING

### Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ\*

\*Offertory Hymn

“We Are An Offering”

ELW #692