

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026



PRELUDE

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

PROCESSIONAL

"Gather Us In"

ELW 532

We journey together as a people called into God's story, walking in the way of Jesus.

GREETING

God names us as beloved and draws us into community.

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We tell the truth about our lives and hear again that grace comes first.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice, 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.

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.

Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM / SPECIAL MUSIC

"Be Still"

Karen Marrolli

Our voices and hearts respond to God's grace, joining creation in song and praise.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

We ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts for hearing God's word.

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.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

God speaks across time and tradition: in promise, struggle, praise, and the life of Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

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.

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.
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.
“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.
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.
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?
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?
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?

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.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
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.
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.
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.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 112:1-10

We give voice to God's faithfulness, participating in the living story of God's mercy and love by echoing the ancient prayers of God's people.

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!
**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.
The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

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 First Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

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. But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 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”—

God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 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. 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. 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.

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. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

“For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

Holy Wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

(The Assembly stands for the gospel.)

We sing in joy, welcoming the promises of God's love revealed in Jesus.

S 188

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING*Matthew 5:13-20**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 gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "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.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 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. 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.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 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. 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. 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, Lord Christ.**SERMON**

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

We hear God's promise proclaimed to us, and the Spirit works in our hearts to make it real.

(The Assembly stands.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O God of Light”

ELW 507

We respond to the promises of God in song.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

ELW pg 105

We join the wider church in naming the story that holds us.

**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

We entrust all into God's care.

After each prayer petition, please respond: **Merciful God. Receive our prayer.**

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.
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We offer signs of Christ's peace, joining God's work of reconciliation.

May the peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We have seen the light of Christ!

Thanks be to God! We offer what we have and who we are, that God's light may be shared with the world.

We return our gifts to God, offering ourselves for the life of the world.

How can I be free from sin
Lead me to the cross of Jesus
From the guilt the pow'r the pain
Lead me to the cross of Jesus

There's no other way
No price that I could pay
Simply to the cross I cling
This is all I need
This is all I plead
That His blood was shed for me

How can I know peace within
Lead me to the cross of Jesus
Sing a song of joy again
Lead me to the cross of Jesus

Flowing from above
All-forgiving love
From the Father's heart to me
What a gift of grace
His own righteousness
Clothing me in purity

How can I live day by day
Lead me to the cross of Jesus
Following His narrow way
Lead me to the cross of Jesus

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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



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We lift our hearts and give thanks for God's life-giving work.

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.**

PREFACE

We remember God's faithfulness and join heaven and earth in praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 1, pg 108

We join the song of heaven and earth, proclaiming God's glory and holiness as we prepare to receive Christ's presence at the table.

510B

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We recall the story of Jesus and ask the Spirit to make us one.

Holy God, you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.....we proclaim with all creation the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

We pray as Jesus taught, trusting God for what we need.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of grace, receiving Christ's presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Build Up”

Peterson, Olson

Singing in response to God's gift, we enter more deeply into the presence of Christ.

Chorus

Build up, prepare the way
Remove the obstructions from my people's way
Build up, prepare the way
God is near, God is here today

God sees all our destruction
How we get in love's way
Still God comes and meets us
with a steady, healing embrace
(Chorus)

Break the chains of injustice
Let the oppressed go free
Share our homes with the homeless
and our bread with the hungry
(Chorus)

Bridge
Then your light will break forth like the dawn
and your healing will break into song
(Chorus)

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We ask for strength to live what we have received.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We share news and opportunities to live God's love together as a community.

BLESSING

God's promise goes with us into whatever comes next.

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

Amen.

RECESSIONAL

“This Little Light of Mine”

ELW 677

With hearts lifted, we turn toward the world as Christ's people.

SENDING

We are sent to love, serve, and live the story we have shared.

Our Eucharist has ended. **Now it must be lived.**
Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

As worship concludes, music strengthens and inspires us for the journey ahead.

Verse 1

What does it mean to be saved
Isn't it more than just a prayer to pray
More than just a way to heaven
What does it mean to be His
To be formed in His likeness
Know that we have a purpose

Pre-Chorus

To be salt and light in the world in the world
To be salt and light in the world

Chorus 1

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so
Say so say so (say so)

Verse 2

Oh that the church would arise
Oh that we would see with Jesus' eyes
We could show the world heaven
Show what it means to be His
To be formed in His likeness
Show them they have a purpose

Bridge

I am redeemed (repeated several times)

Pre-Chorus

To be salt and light in the world in the world
In the world in the world in the world

Chorus 2

Let the redeemed of the Lord rise up
Let the redeemed of the Lord rise up
Let the redeemed of the Lord rise up
Rise up rise up

*****Trinity at a Glance*****

- **Worship Assistants are needed for February and March.** If you would like to help serve in this capacity, please sign up by Java Junction in the Worship Assistant book.
- **First Communion Class Registration has started!** To register please contact the office at 815-434-0596 or by emailing Pastor Phil at pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com. Individuals who have not yet received the Sacrament of Holy Communion who are aged 7 or older are invited!
- **Mission/Outreach sincerely thanks our congregation** for their generous response to our annual Mitten Tree collection. Because of your kindness and generosity we were able to make a delivery to Youth Service Bureau of 17 pairs of gloves, 9 hats, 6 scarves, and 62 pairs of socks. Youth Service Bureau is very appreciative.
- **The next Blood Drive will be on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.** Contact Carol Wahlstrom if interested in helping or donating.
- **First Communion Classes** are scheduled for **9am-9:50am on Sunday, March 15th & March 29th, 2026.** We meet in Fellowship Hall, beneath the Sanctuary. **First Communion Sunday is Sunday, April 12th, 2026.**
- There is a **Lost and Found** bin by the coat rack in the Sanctuary. There is also a ring found and held in the office. If items are not claimed, they will be donated to the garage sale. If the ring is yours, please call the office 815-434-0596 or send an email to tlcoffice@trinitylutheranottawa.com.
- **We have a couple of 2026 calendars left (\$20). Profits go to the Growing Project.** Please contact the office during regular business hours if you would like one. Marj Nelson 815-973-1286 and Kate Reed 815-830-2061 also have copies available.
- **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**
 - Jan Income =19,831.07 (Income YTD = \$19,831.07)
 - Jan Expense = \$21,528.20 (Expense YTD = \$21,528.20)
 - Income Less Expense = -\$1,697.13 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$1,697.13)
 - Loan Payment = \$406.68
 - Principal Payment = \$0
 - Left On Loan = \$0

● **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (2/9):** 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 10a Staff Meeting (Office)
- **Tuesday (2/10):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 7p Finance Committee (Board Room)
- **Wednesday (2/11)** *No Bible Study*
 9a Blood Drive (Education Building)
 6p Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- **Thursday (2/12):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 1p Trinity Stitchers (Sewing Room)
- **Friday (2/13):** 7a Sunrise Rotary (Fellowship Hall)
- **Saturday (2/14):** *Valentine's Day!* 
- **Sunday (2/15)** 9a Sunday Session
 9a Affirmation Class
 10a Holy Communion

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

<p><u>Sunday, February 8, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Anna Reed</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Shannon Matteson</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Ann Enke, Shannon Matteson, Mike Matteson</i> Altar Guild: <i>Debbie Guenther, Anne Lauterjung</i> Video Tech: Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:</p>	<p><u>Sunday, February 15, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Reagan Duffield</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Justin Reed</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Brad Gromm</i> Altar Guild: <i>Katrina Bromann, Linda Scott</i> Video Tech: Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers: In Memory of Michael Lyons from Linda Scott & Family</p>