

St. Paul Lutheran Smithville



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 8, 2026

Prelude & Welcome

****Confession and Forgiveness***

P: Our God is holy, merciful, and slow to anger.

We are told that we can turn from the things that lead us away from God and receive forgiveness and a new start.

Let's prepare ourselves to be in God's presence by asking for forgiveness and resting in God's mercy.

C: Amen.

P: God you call us to do justice and to treat others the way that we, ourselves, wish to be treated. We have not lived up to that expectation and have caused unnecessary pain and division.

C: Forgive us

P: You tell us to follow the example of humility and love that Jesus modeled for us, yet, we have raised ourselves up in an effort to get ahead of others.

C: Forgive us.

P: You have given us rules to guide us that we might have the good life that you intended for us but we have mistrusted you or ignored you completely, trusting instead in our own understanding.

C: Forgive us.

P: You have provided this world with enough that all may have what they need, but we have hoarded and taken more than our share while others have gone without. We have glorified the wealthy and judged the needy.

C: Forgive us.

P: Scripture says that if we will confess our sin and turn away from it, we will receive forgiveness and mercy. Hear these words of promise and receive the mercy of God. May the Spirit of the living God wash over you and cleanse you from the sin that you acknowledge and the times when our minds and hearts have wandered away from God's intention for our lives even when we were not aware of it.

C: Amen.

**Gathering Hymn:*

"Rise, Shine, You People!"

ELW 665



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003

Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

****Greeting & Call to Worship***

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.

A: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

****Prayer of the Day***

A: Let us pray. Lord God,

C: 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: Isaiah 58:1-11

¹ 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.

² 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.

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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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?

⁶ 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?

⁷ 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?

⁸ 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.

- 9a Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."
9b If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
10 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.
11 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.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 112:1-10

R: Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

**C: Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

R: Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

**C: They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

R: It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

**C: For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.**

R: They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

**C: Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

R: They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.

**C: The wicked see it and are angry;
they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ 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. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ 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”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the book of Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel Reading:** Matthew 5:13-20

[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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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 the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon: Pastor Kristy Buyok

Hymn of the Day:

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

- 1. You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
life in the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

***Refrain* Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace;
bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring forth the city of God!**

- 2. You are a light on the hill, O people,
light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
shine for the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

- 3. You are a seed of the word, O people:
bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

- 4. We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
bound for the kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
love is the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

Text: Marty Haugen. © 1986 GIA Publications

The Apostle's Creed

A: Together, let us confess the belief that we share in this family of faith.

**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.**

(The words "catholic" and "apostolic" do not reference a particular denomination but mean: catholic = "one universal church" and apostolic = "the same faith that was handed down from Jesus to the Apostles")

The Prayers

A: Let us pray: 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.

A: Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard your creation from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern honestly, and with compassion, and bring truth to light, that justice would come quickly. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way especially: Nancy, Steve, Ann, Barb, Dave, Lynne, Phoebe, Cassidy, Zach, Jim, Shannon, and Ken. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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.

A: Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting in your promise of salvation.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We come to God confident that we are heard when we pray and ask for help with the things that weigh on our hearts that have not been spoken today.

C: Amen.

**Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Choir Anthem:

“Savior of My Heart”

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INTEGRITY'S HOSANNA! MUSIC (ASCAP and AUSHAW MUSIC (BMI)
Words and Music by John Hartley, Sheila Walsh and Bonnie Bielec
Arranged by David Angerman (ASCAP)

**Offertory Prayer*

P: Let us pray. Lord God,

C: you are more magnificent than we can even imagine.

Meet us here at your table of mercy and allow us to see glimpses of your eternal kingdom. Take what we have shared today and use it to further your mission in this place. Amen.

****The 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 the 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
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven, we celebrate your name and join their
unending praise:

**C: Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are you, our Savior and Lord!**

****Words of Institution***

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

****The Lord's Prayer***

**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: God is with us, here at the table of salvation.
Come receive the promises of our God.**

Holy Communion

***(All baptized Christians are welcomed at God's holy meal or you
may come forward for a blessing.)***

Communion Hymn: “We Are the Light of the World”

1. **Blessed are they who are poor in spirit,
Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Bless us, O Lord, make us poor in spirit;
Bless us, O Lord, our God. (*Refrain*)**

- Refrain We are the light of the world,
May our light shine before all,
That they may see the good that we do,
and give glory to God.**

2. **Blessed are they who are meek and humble,
They will inherit the earth.
Bless us, O Lord, make us meek and humble;
Bless us, O Lord, our God. (*Refrain*)**

3. **Blessed are they who will mourn in sorrow,
They will be comforted.
Bless us, O Lord, when we share their sorrow;
Bless us, O Lord, our God. (*Refrain*)**

4. **Bless those who hunger and thirst for justice,
They will be satisfied.
Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for justice;
Bless us, O Lord, our God. (*Refrain*)**

5. **Blessed are they who show others mercy,
They will know mercy, too.
Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for mercy;
Bless us, O Lord, our God. (*Refrain*)**

**6. Blessed are hearts that are clean and holy,
They will behold the Lord.
Bless us, O Lord, make us pure and holy;
Bless us, O Lord, our God. (*Refrain*)**

**Refrain We are the light of the world,
May our light shine before all,
That they may see the good that we do,
and give glory to God.**

**7. Blessed are those who bring peace among us,
They are the children of God.
Bless us, O Lord, may your peace be with us;
Bless us, O Lord, our God. (*Refrain*)**

**8. Bless those who suffer from persecution,
Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Bless us, O Lord, when they persecute us;
Bless us, O Lord, our God. (*Refrain*)**

****Post Communion Blessing***

****Benediction***

****Sending Hymn:***

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

- 1. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**
- 2. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**
- 3. O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.**
- 4. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

Text: Sebastian Temple © 1967 OCP Publications

****Dismissal***

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Be kind.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Your Prayers Are Requested For:

***Nancy, Steve, Ann, Lynne, Phoebe, Cassidy, Zach, Jim, Shannon, Ken,
Barb, Dave, and Jaime***

Thank you to those serving this morning

Pastor: Rev. Kristy Buyok

Cantor: Lesley Mast

Assisting Minister: Hans Kwee

Reader: Lyn Miller

Pianist: Joe Hennell

Communion Assistant: Duane Eggeman

Altar Care: Rex & Beth Raff

Ushers/Greeters: Jerry & Kathy Meitzler

Bread Baker: Nancy Carr



Worship Services are streamed each Sunday at:

www.stplcsmithville.org/services

If you are unable to access via the internet,
DVD copies are available for delivery to your home.

Please contact Pastor Kristy: (803) 673-1727.

stplcsmithville.org

This Week

Sunday:	Worship Soup-er Bowl Canned Soup Drive Sunday School Youth Valentine's Service Project	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.
Monday:	<i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	
Tuesday:	Church Council	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday:	Meal Choir Handbells	5:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Thursday:	Euchre Healthy Life Class	11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Next Sunday:	Worship Sunday School	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming & Announcements

Healthy Life Series: Our Healthy Life Series continues this Thursday, the 29th, at 6pm. Meet up for a 6-week series with Pastor Kristy and find out what she is doing to feel healthy. Open to all. No judgement or pressure. We are cooking this week.

People to People: Needed items: spaghetti sauce, kidney beans, cereal, instant oatmeal, and dry dog food. Thanks!



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return

February 18 -7 p.m.

Men of the Church: Save the date on Saturday, February 21 for a special Men's Event.

★

MEN'S DAY EVENT

When we're well ~ We love well.



Noah Raines Speaker

Packing gifts for the homeless



HELPING THE HOMELESS

Join us for a meal, fellowship, speaker, and service project

February 21
10am-Noon

Register by calling the church or signing up in person.

St. Paul Lutheran Church ~ 777 S. Summit St., Smithville, OH 44677 ~ (330) 669-2111

Canned food: If you have extra that you can share, consider bringing canned food to place in the food box located in the church drive. If the food box is full you may place your food on the back table in the small fellowship hall. We will use this food to refill the box throughout the week. Thank you for your generosity.

Soup-er Bowl Sunday: Please help us collect for the Salvation Army this winter. Drop off any canned soup or other canned goods in the Narthex. We will continue to collect donations for one more week after the big game!

STPLC Annual

Souper Bowl Canned Soup Drive



**Help us collect
soup for local
food banks!**

**Donate at St. Paul
by Feb. 8th to support
your team.**

**Donations of pet food
accepted for the
Puppy Bowl**



Scan the QR code to view our website or to donate thru Paypal.

Wednesday Night Meals

February 11 – Turkey casserole, salad and dessert

February 18 – Kitchen Committee casserole, salad and dessert

February 25 – Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and dessert

Serving in February In-Person	2/1	2/8	2/15	Ash Wednesday 2/18	2/22
Lay Reader	Aleena Mast	Lyn Miller	Lynn Moomaw	Lyn Miller	Tim Preston
Assisting Minister	Lynn Moomaw	Hans Kwee	Adrienne Karlen	Vicki Svegel	Pam Root
Greeters/ Ushers	Rex Raff Nancy Percy	Jerry & Kathy Meitzler	Bruce Blough Hans Kwee	Ernie Buyok Tim Preston	Steve & Nancy Carr
Communion Assistant	Tim Preston	Duane Eggeman	Lynn Moomaw	N/A	Lyn Miller
Altar Care	Larry & Sandy Miller	Rex & Beth Raff	Steve & Nancy Carr	N/A	Kathy Meitzler
Bread Baker	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr

Act of Kindness for the Week: Donate Blood to the Red Cross

Rev. Kristy Buyok, Pastor: 803-673-1727

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