

5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Marilyn Dichsen – “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” arr. Sovereign Grace

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Our God is Here”

(piano)

1. **Here in this time, here in this place, here we are standing face to face.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives our God is here.
Here for the broken, here for the strong, here in this temple we belong.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives, our God is here. And we cry:**

*Refrain: “Holy! Holy! Holy are you!” We cry: “Holy! Holy! Holy and true!”
Amen, we do believe our God is here. Our God is here.*

2. **Here in the Word, God is revealed, here where the wounded can be healed.
Here in our hearts, here in our lives, our God is here.
Here we become what we receive, here in this Eucharistic feast.
We are his body, living as one; our God is here. And we cry: *Refrain***

**And we cry: “Holy! Holy! Holy are you!” We cry: “Holy! Holy! Holy and true!”
Amen, we do believe our God is here. Our God is here.**

**Greeting*

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.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: God of new life, you are our rock. You lift up the weak and mend the broken. In the waters of Holy Baptism, your healing grace stirs, becoming a spring of water, gushing up to eternal life. Help us to take you at your word, trusting in your promises and living in your love, today and always.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ’s Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of Praise: “We Come to You for Healing” ELW 617, vv. 1-3 (organ)

- 1 **We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit’s touch we may again be whole.**
- 2 **As once you walked through ancient streets and reached toward those in pain,
come, risen Christ, among us still with pow’r to heal again.**
- 3 **You touch us through physicians’ skills, through nurses’ gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends who lift our lives in prayer.**

WORD

Reading: Psalm 40:1-5

Reader: Angela Spray

¹I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.

²He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.

³He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord
and put their trust in him.

⁴Blessed is the one
who trusts in the Lord,
who does not look to the proud,
to those who turn aside to false gods.

⁵Many, Lord my God,
are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.

None can compare with you;
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Reading: John 4:46-54; 5:1-9*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4th and 5th chapters.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁶Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

⁴⁸“Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”

⁴⁹The royal official said, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”

⁵⁰“Go,” Jesus replied, “your son will live.”

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. ⁵¹While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵²When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, “Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.”

⁵³Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he and his whole household believed.

⁵⁴This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

⁵Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ²Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ^[4] ⁵One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

⁸Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

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

Song – “We Come to You for Healing” ELW 617, vv. 4-5

(organ)

**4 When nights are long with wakefulness, through days when strength runs low,
grant us your gift of patience, Lord, your calming peace to know.**

- 5 We come to you, O loving Lord, in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days your grace will heal, sustain.**

Sermon: “Take Jesus at His Word”

Song of the Day – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ELW 858 *(organ)*

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.**
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Presentation

All gather at the font.

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Parents: We present Madison Diamond Jean Carls, Shaylena Elizabeth Carls, and Sean William Carls for baptism.

Presiding minister addresses parents:

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your children baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the Holy Scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that they may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Presiding minister addresses Godparents:

P: Matt and Chrissy, do you promise to nurture MJ in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: We do.

Presiding minister addresses Godparents:

P: Tom, Katie, and Kelly, do you promise to nurture Shay in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: We do.

Presiding minister addresses Godparents:

P: Jeff, Audrey, John, and Shannon, do you promise to nurture Sean in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: We do.

Presiding minister addresses the assembly:

P: People of God, do you promise to support MJ, Shay, and Sean and pray for them in their new lives in Christ?

C: We do.

***Profession of Faith**

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God the Son?

**C: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

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

Water is poured into the font...

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Baptism

Madison Diamond Jean Carls, I baptize you in the name of the Father... and of the Son... and of the Holy Spirit.

Shaylena Elizabeth Carls, I baptize you in the name of the Father... and of the Son... and of the Holy Spirit.

Sean William Carls, I baptize you in the name of the Father... and of the Son... and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain MJ, Shay, and Sean with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

MJ, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Shay, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Sean, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

New Member Welcome

*We welcome into our Faith Family today
Katie Carls and Meghan Roman*

Welcome

Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ.

We welcome you into the body of Christ, into this Faith Family, and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world!

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

*“Wade in the Water,” African American Spiritual
The Faith Singers*

*—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are
communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate
as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God
through the use of our time, talents, and finances—*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**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.**

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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.

Communion Songs

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” ELW 614 (*organ*)

Refrain

***There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.***

- 1 **Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain***
- 2 **If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." *Refrain***
- 3 **Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend. *Refrain***

“Shout to the North” (*piano*)

**Men of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you feel weak, in your brokenness complete.**

***Refrain: Shout to the north and the south, sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth.***

**Rise up, women of the truth, stand and sing to broken hearts.
Who can know the healing pow'r of our awesome King of love? *Refrain***

**We've been through fire, we've been through rain,
we've been refined by the pow'r of his name.**

**We've fallen deeper in love with you,
you've burned the truth on our lips. *Refrain***

**Rise up, church with broken wings, fill this place with songs again
of our God who reigns on high, by his grace again we'll fly. *Refrain***

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “My Redeemer Lives” (piano)*

I know He rescued my soul, His blood has covered my sin. I believe, I believe!

My shame is taken away, my pain is healed in His name. I believe, I believe!

I'll raise the banner 'cause my Lord has conquered the grave!

My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives!

My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! *Repeat verse*

My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives!

You lift my burdens, I'll rise with You.

I'm dancing on this mountaintop to see Your kingdom come!

My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives! My Redeemer lives!

Repeat

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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The altar plants are donated today by the Dichsen family
in honor of Benen’s 17th birthday on February 9
and in memory of Pastor Adam’s Mom, Judy

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Ken Devlin

Greeter: Mindy Carlson

Reader: Angela Spray

Usher: Barb Davenport

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Barb Davenport & Karen Sibert

Chancel Committee: Mary Jane Esslinger

Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



Singers:

Maddie Crossin

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson
Ken Devlin

Marilyn Dichsen
Kelly Hartz

Greg Kimler
Patty Nelson

Monica Proefrock
Kay Schnitker
Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, February 8, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

4:30pm: Worship Core Team Meeting

6:00pm: New Music Rehearsal

Sunday, February 15, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

Wednesday, February 18, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

7:00pm: Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 19, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

This February, Faith's Little Flock will continue the journey through the book of John alongside the rest of our congregation. Through simple storytelling, hands-on activities, and music, our youngest learners (and big-kid helpers) will explore what it means that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and discover the hope found in the story of Lazarus. As the Lenten season begins, we will focus on themes of love, trust, and new life, helping children understand that Jesus is always near, guiding and caring for them.

We look forward to walking this meaningful season together with your children through stories, creativity, and faith-filled fun.

If you would like to help with FLF, please contact Melissa Street, Pam Devlin, or Liddy Stark. Blessings, *Melissa*

Contribution Envelopes for 2026 are available in the gathering area. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please talk to Kris Roth, Barb Davenport, or Pam Devlin.

Financial Statements

for 2025 are available in the office.

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Faith Library** (this new group will take the place of the Discipleship Group). We gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We are utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. People should read assigned daily readings from The Bible Recap so that we can discuss what we read.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Post-Service Discussions after Worship

On February 15, grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. On February 8 after worship, the Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary after the service. *Naomi Hahn*

Bible Boot Camp and Faith Inkubators

Pastor Adam is available to lead gatherings on Feb. 15, March 15 & 22, & April 12 & 19. If others would like to help provide a meal or lead a fun activity, please contact Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen, or Celeste Hill on our Discipleship Core Team or **sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area**. Our typical schedule is for Bible Boot Camp from 4:30-5:30, a meal from 5:30-6:00, and Faith Inkubators from 6:00-7:30.

Lenten Midweek Worship Schedule

Our schedule for midweek worship services this year –

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25

Outreach Meal at 6:00 p.m.

Midweek Worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Midweek Supper and Worship with “Outreach Meals”

Our Lenten tradition continues with Wednesday night meals and worship, and we will again provide Outreach Meals. The meals will not be pot-luck style but will be a provided meal with a free-will offering. **Groups are invited to sign up for a Wednesday to provide the meal.** Faith will reimburse them \$200 in outreach funds to cover their cost. The group can select a charity to receive the funds, and all of the offering will go towards that ministry. Sign up your group and charity at the counter outside the Total Ministry Center. Join us for these wonderful outreach meals at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and all are invited to chip in and help with clean up in the kitchen. Worship will start at 7:00 to make time for all to be ready after the meal.

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$9.00** regular & decaf; **\$3.00** tea). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Conference of Churches Collecting Dry Goods for Area Food Bank

Super Bowl Competition

to support the Food Center "Grains" event: choose a team and bring your donation to the Working Cross area in the Gathering Area.

Seahawks

Hamburger Helper or Mac n Cheese

Patriots

Crackers or Dry Pasta

Not a Fan

Cereal

Let's score a touchdown for the Food Center!

Prayer and Meditation

Prayer and meditation are ways that we invite God into our lives and into those for whom we pray. The health challenges facing Marilyn Dichsen have focused our congregation's attention on the importance of prayers for healing cancer in a gifted young woman. Marilyn's challenges have also brought to our attention all who are struggling with physical and mental health issues. Faith members are encouraged to pray for all who are in need wherever you might find yourself. The church sanctuary is open during regular church

office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-1:00) for members to stop by and spend quiet time praying for Marilyn, her family, and all those who are in need of prayer. A prayer book is available at the back of the sanctuary by the tech station, along with the names of those who have been included in worship prayers and our prayer chain. Please sign your name and record your prayers or words of encouragement, if you so desire.