

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, E.L.C.A.  
255 West Lincoln Avenue Hartford WI 53027

Office Phone: 262-673-2550 Office email: redeemerhartford@gmail.com  
Pastor Steve Rutter 715-271-3028 [pastorsteve25redeemer@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsteve25redeemer@gmail.com)  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 8, 2026

\* Stand as you are able

## GATHERING

### INVOCATION

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, Savior and Lord of all.

**C: Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS \*

P: 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.**

### GATHERING HYMN\*

ELW # 665 "Rise, Shine, You People!"

### GREETING

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 (pages 184-185 in front of hymnal)

**C: Sing refrain**

Lori: For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all: ... let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Sing refrain**

Lori: That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor...let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Sing refrain**

Lori: For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family ... let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Sing refrain**

Lori: For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word ... let us pray to the

Lord

**C: Sing refrain**

**Hymn of Praise\***

ELW pages 187-188 in front of Hymnal: "This is the feast ... Allelulia"

**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.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**ISAIAH 58:1-12**

<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>[a]</sup> <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<sup>[b]</sup> shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.

P: The Word of the Lord:

**C: Thanks be to God**

**PSALM 112:1-10**

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

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

**3** Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

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

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

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

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

**8 Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in**

## **triumph on their foes.**

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

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

## **1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-16**

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony<sup>[a]</sup> 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<sup>[b]</sup> 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. <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. <sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>14</sup> Those who are unspiritual<sup>[d]</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. <sup>16</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

P: The Word of the Lord:     **C: Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Acclamation \***

ELW# 172 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

## **P: THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 5:13-20**

### **C: 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 underfoot. <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. <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,<sup>[a]</sup> not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks<sup>[b]</sup> 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.

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

### **Sermon**

Pastor Curt Schneider, Guest Pastor

### **Hymn of the Day \***

ELW 715 "Christ, Be Our Light"

**The Apostle's Creed \*** (Printed inside the back cover of the hymnal.)

### **Welcome to our WTKM radio and online worshipers, Good News and Prayer Petitions**

### **Prayers of the Church**

Response: P: God of mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

### **Sharing the Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

(you are encouraged to turn to one another and share the peace of the Lord.)

### **Offering Hymn \***

ELW # 708 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

### **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.**

## **MEAL**

### **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.**

### **The Preface \***

P: Lord, it is indeed right and our joy that at all times and in all places we give thanks and praise to you. And so with the angels and archangels and with the church on earth and in heaven, we give glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, as we praise your name and join in the unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest** (pg. 144 ELW)

### **The Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer \***

### **Invitation to Communion**

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

**Hymn**

ELW # 146 “Lamb of God”

**Distribution**

**Communion Hymn \***

ELW # 482 “I Come with Joy”

**SENDING**

**Communion Blessing \***

**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.**

**Blessing \***

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. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn \***

ELW # 540 “Go, Make Disciples”

**Dismissal \***

P: Go in peace. As we serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Redeemer Announcements**

- Today's Lector Tom Hostad, and our ushers are Kurt & Wendy Hintz.
- Next week's Lector is Kurt Hintz and our usher is Don Horen.
- Pastor Curt Schneider is our guest pastor today.
- The next Women's Bible Study is **Monday, February 9th**, at noon. Bring a lunch and join us.
- A Church Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, February 16th** at 4:00PM. (please note date change).
- Conversations with God: Our next Conversations with God will be held on Thursday, **February 19th**, at 10am. We will take this time to gather for prayer, Scripture, and conversation on a different topic each month. February's topic will be "**Love**".
- Pastor will be in the office on **Thursday, February 12th** from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Appointments are appreciated, but not necessary. If you wish to meet with Pastor at other times, please contact him directly. Looking ahead, he will be in the office he will be in on **Thursdays, 19th, and 26th** from 9am-12pm. Pastor is returning from vacation February 10th.
- Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 8th at 6:30pm.
- 2025 Year End Statements are available on the round table in the Narthex.
- Hartford Union high school Cheer Team will be participating in the preliminary competition of WACPC on February 14 (biggest cheer competition in the state), and will be using our parking lot that day. Go Hartford!!

### **Ministry Partners**

- Special Giving for February is "Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge".
  - Community Lunch will be served on **Saturday February 28th**, 11:30am, at First United Methodist Church. Fellowship prior to lunch.
- Lincoln Elementary School

In the Nest:

- Casa Guadalupe English Language Learners "ELL" meets Monday & Wednesdays from 6- 7:30PM.
- Al-Anon Meetings are held Thursdays at 7:00PM.
- Girl Scouts meet the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays

### **The Needs of Our Partners:**

#### Lincoln Elementary School.

**Clothing** winter clothes for children in various sizes snowpants, winter coats, socks, sweatpants for both elementary and middle school, regular gloves, and cups, gloves for playing in the snow. **Snacks** include: Goldfish, Individually wrapped food items, Animal Crackers, and Granola Bars... **NO** bags of nuts.

**Food drive/pantry** (most helpful in Feb – Summer) cereal, shelf stable microwave meals, canned goods and mac and cheese with cheese sauce (not add milk and butter).

#### Casa Guadalupe

**Clothing:** winter coats, boots, mittens, warm clothes, winter hats, socks (gently used items are ok) **Snacks:** Kid snacks - **NO NUTS**, fruit cups, cereal, canned goods. **Other Items:** Books (gently used is ok), new toys.

See The Herald and the giving tree in the coffee area for these and other needs.

**PLEASE JOIN US AFTER TODAY'S SERVICE FOR COFFEE AND SNACKS IN  
THE GATHERING ROOM**