

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

### GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

#### Prelude

*Trio*

Johann Ludwig Krebs  
(1713-1780)

#### Greeting and Announcements

#### Opening Sentences

#### \*Doxology - all to sing

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

No. 592

#### \*Prayer of Praise

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: We are salt for the earth.

People: We are a light for the world.

Leader: Just as no one hides a lamp away,

People: we will offer the world what only we can give.

Leader: In shining our lights, we will remember:

People: We are not the only ones with vital wisdom.

Leader: Grateful for mutual enlightenment,

People: we will not drown out another's beam with ours.

Leader: Let us worship God.

#### \*Opening Hymn      ["Come, Great God of All the Ages"](#)

#### \*Call to Confession

Leader: Into this space we bring our weights and burdens—the things we have done or not done, said or not said. Trusting in God's mercy, let us lay down those burdens before God.

#### \*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Patient God, it is so easy for us to miss the point. We know how to perform righteousness; we go to church, we donate, we volunteer, but we care more about how we are seen than our faithfulness to you. We show off our piousness, instead of actually sharing our food, our homes,

our resources with those in the most need. Have mercy on us for the ways we serve ourselves, and teach us your way, the way that leads to justice and peace.

*A Time of Silent Prayer*

#### \*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: When we cry for help, God says, "Here I am!" When we ask for mercy, God grants it freely, longing for a closer walk with us. We shout: Alleluia! This is good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

#### \*Response of Praise-all to sing      "Gloria Patri"

No. 579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

#### \*We Share God's Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

*(You are invited to share God's peace as you greet those around you.)*

#### Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders

Leader: As many of you as were baptized into Christ  
have clothed yourselves with Christ.

*Gal. 3:27*

People: There is one body and one Spirit, just as we  
were called to the one hope of our calling.

*Eph. 4:4*

Leader: In baptism, you *were* clothed with Christ, and *are*  
now called by God through the voice of the church  
to enter into ministries of service and governance,  
announcing in word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ.

People: We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ,  
and we celebrate God's particular call to our sisters and  
brothers.

Leader: There are varieties of gifts,

*1 Cor. 12:4–7, 27*

People: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

Leader: There are different ways of serving God,

People: but it is the same Lord who is served.

Leader: God works through each person in a unique way,

People: but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

Leader: To each is given a gift of the Spirit

People: to be used for the common good.

**Leader:** Together we are the body of Christ,  
**People:** and individually members of it.

*All praise to God, who reigns above, The god of all creation,  
The God of wonders, pow'r, and love, The god of our salvation!  
With healing balm my soul He fills, The God who ev'ry sorrow stills  
To God all praise and glory!*

*What God's almighty pow'r hath made His gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning dawn or evening shade His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;  
Within the kingdom of His might, Lo, all is just, and all is right  
To God all praise and glory, To God all praise and glory!*

## **LISTENING FOR THE WORD**

## Prayer for Illumination

## Old Testament Reading

## Psalm 112 (NRSV)

**Hymn (seated)**                    "Jesus Loves Me"                    No. 304  
*Jesus loves me! This I know. For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

## Children's Message

*(Children grades K-8 may be dismissed to Sunday School)*

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

## Prayer for Illumination

## New Testament Reading

## 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 (NRSV)

# Sermon

## *“Life’s Deepest Mystery”*

*righteousness endures forever*

The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

## Prayers of the People...The Lord's Prayer ('debts' and debtors')

## **BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*Sending Hymn      “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”**

### \*Charge and Benediction

## Postlude

## Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens  
(1823-1881)

*(We invite you to remain seated through the Postlude.)*

**\*Indicates that those who are able may stand.**

## **Lectionary readings for February 15, 2026**

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9