

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: “*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*” - arr. John Leavitt
Lois Theesfield, organ

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

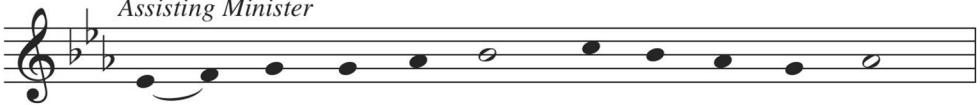
**Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind 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: “*Gathering*” from “*Unfailing Light*” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

Assisting Minister



O ser - vants of God, let us sing our praise.

All



We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister



From the ris - ing of the sun to its set - ting,

All



We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister



You lift up the weak and hun - gry.

All



We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

When a Star Is Shining - ACS #915

1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,
 2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,
 3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;

when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,
 where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"
 guide us through the shad-ow with your gen - tle light;

when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,
 Where an earth - ly pow-er makes the heart turn cold,
 show us in a man - ger our re - demp-tion's sign;

then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
 there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
 bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.

Refrain

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the
 promise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,
 to a morn-ing where the promise shines.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES, Bob Moore, b. 1962

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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.**

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout 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.

²Yet 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.

⁴You 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.

⁵Is 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?

⁶Is 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?

⁷Is 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?

⁸Then 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,

¹⁰if 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.

¹¹The 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.

¹²Your 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

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

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

¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For 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. ¹²Now 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

Gospel Acclamation - “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia,
al - le - lu - ia; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verse

Your words are sweet to taste,
sweet - er than hon - ey to our mouth.

To Refrain

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

The Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to You, O Lord

[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.

¹⁵People 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. ¹⁶In 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “*Christ, Be Our Light*” - ELW #715

Apostles Creed

**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

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Music Voluntary: *"I Life My Lamp"* - Gwyneth Walker
Memorial Choir

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 Meal

This is Christ's table and Christ's meal. All are welcome here. Kids are welcome to commune at the discretion of their parents. If you are unable to come forward please let an usher or the pastor know so that we can bring you Communion at your seat.

The Great Thanksgiving - “*Unfailing Light*” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good everywhere and always to give you thanks and
praise, Holy God, mighty and immortal, through your Son Jesus Christ.
Sharing our life, he lived among us, revealing your boundless love, a light
to all the nations, and life for ev'ry people
And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” - “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen & Susan Breihl

All

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.

Bless - ed is the One who comes, who

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

The 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.**

Invitation to Communion

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

Hymns during Communion

“Lamb of God” - “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl
“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” - ELW #712

Lamb of God
(Unfailing Light)



Hymn after Communion: “Now Lord You Let Your Servant Go in Peace” from “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

All

Now Lord, you let your

servant go in peace: your word has been ful - filled. My

own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a

light to re - veal you to the na - tions, and the

glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now Lord, you let your servant go in peace.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Announcements

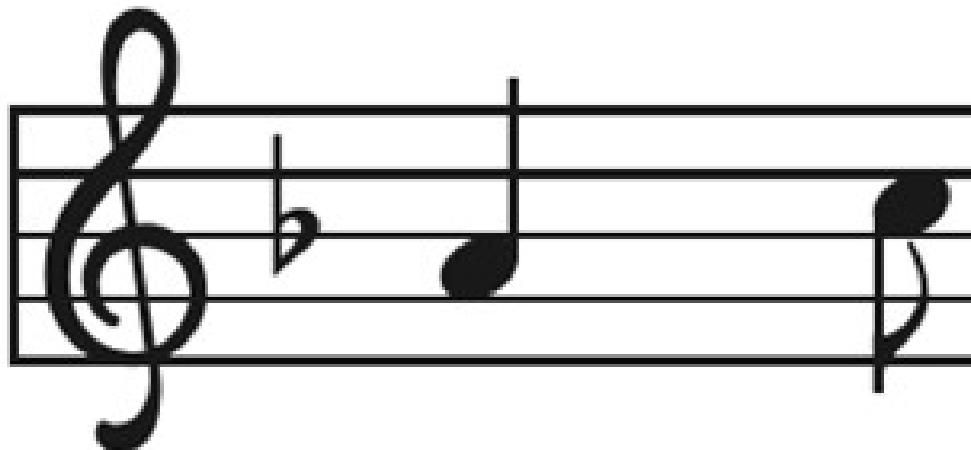
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Blessing

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.

Sending Hymn: "Jesus, the Light of the World" - ACS #914



1 Hark! the
2 Joy - ful
3 Christ. bv

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org or emily@mlcnevada.org, or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

*Please keep Shelley Ludeman and family in your prayers following
the death of her sister, Rhonda Thompson*

*Please keep Kenzie and Fred Alderson and family in your prayers following the death
of Fred's mother Beverly Alderson.*

Bill Couser	Jill Rhodes	Johann Thiel
Mary Brinkman	Connie Robinson <i>sister of Shirley Klonglan</i>	Mike Neal
Ashley and Ming Xu <i>friends of Aly Sassman</i>	Barb McDaniel	Christina King
Julia Zaffarano	Ken Huffaker <i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>	Sherry Kluever
Joan Stensland	Emma Nelson <i>granddaughter of Steve & Nan Jungst</i>	Kim Elliott
Kathy Lynn Johnson	Ardith Forsyth	Pr. Marcia Kisner
Teresa Krebs	Eileen Miller	Marlene Waddell
Kari Toot	Karen Anderson	<i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goetsch</i>
Tanya Sorem	Caleb Roof	Cassie Harrell
Julie & Craig Sutherland	Evelyn Onstot	Jean Smith
June Copenhaver <i>mother of Diane Martin</i>	Katy Beno <i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>	Easton Farrington
Pastor Andrea Myers <i>wife of Pastor Ronald Myers</i>	Eric Forsyth	Janice Hartz
Charlie Lloyd	Crystal Vines	Jackie Byers
Bert Ann Ray	Katie Bass <i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>	<i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
Wayne Kinyon	Wayne Johnson	Donna See
Loren Bryant <i>brother of Arlys Neal</i>	Troy Vincent	Norma Dannan
		<i>friend of Betty Runge</i>
		Fred Samuelson
		Jaylee Bartleson
		Janeen Driscoll

Hospitalizations: If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.

Save the Date.

TODAY: Annual Meeting of the Congregation

When: Sunday, February 8 following worship

Executive Committee Meeting

When: Tuesday, February 10, 5:00 PM

Fellowship & Outreach Team Meeting

When: Wednesday, February 11, 4:30 PM

Wednesday Night Live & Confirmation

When: Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 PM

Weekly Bible Study

When: Thursday, February 12, 9:00 AM

Finance Team Meeting

When: Thursday, February 12, 5:00 PM

Ash Wednesday Service

When: Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 PM

Weekly Bible Study

When: Thursday, February 19, 9:00 AM

Council Meeting

When: Thursday, February 19, 7:00 PM

Community BINGO & Nachos

When: Sunday, February 22, 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Mid-week Lenten Worship & Supper (each Wednesday during Lent

leading up to Holy Week)

When: Wednesday, February 25, supper at 6 PM followed by worship at 7 PM

Weekly Bible Study

When: Thursday, February 26, 9:00 AM



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► Memorial Lutheran

Memorial Lutheran ELCA

Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry
 Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement
 Mike Coverdale, Custodian

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