

# The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

## February 8, 2026



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 2255  
Batesville, Arkansas, 72503

Main Street at Fifth  
870-793-2203

### Today's Ministers

<i>Celebrant:</i>	Rev.Carolyn Adhola
<i>Eucharistic Minister:</i>	Brenda Bittle
<i>Acolyte:</i>	Karis Ford
<i>Lector:</i>	Gary Perkey
<i>Ushers:</i>	Pam Baxter & Paul Hance
<i>Choir Director &amp; Organist:</i>	Kristian Ameigh
<i>Technical Support:</i>	Steve Massey
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Paul & Laura Hance

This Week's Community Meal (2/11/2026): **Team Strawberry Mennonites**

*This Sunday's altar flowers are placed for the glory of God by the church of St. Paul's in honor of our new rector, Rev. Carolyn Adhola.*

# The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

## The Word of God

### Entrance Hymn: 381: *Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness*



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy speak - ing  
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as night and  
3 Thy strong word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with thine own  
4 God the Fa - ther, Light - Cre - a - tor, to thee laud and



it was done; for cre - at - ed light we thank thee,  
deep as death, broke the light of thy sal - va - tion,  
ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward glo - ry,  
hon - or be; to thee, Light of Light be - got - ten,



while thine or - dered sea - sons run: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
and our lives our hopes con - fess: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly; Ho - ly Spi - rit, Light - Re -



lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
veal - er, glo - ry, glo - ry be to thee; mor - tals, an - gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
now and ev - er praise the Ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

*The Alleluias in stanzas 1-3 may be sung antiphonally.*

*Today's service begins on Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer.*

*The people standing (as able), the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*People: **And blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever. Amen***

*The Celebrant says*

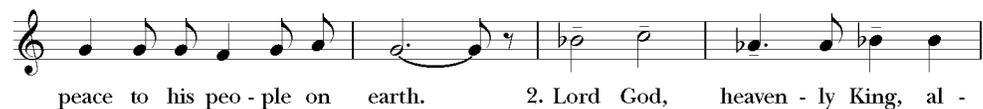
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# Gloria in excelsis - Sung (S278)

Celebrant and People



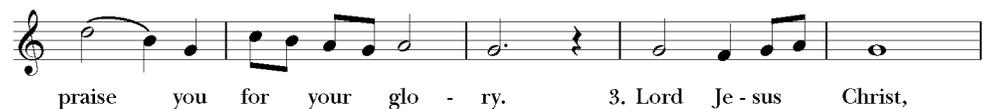
1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -



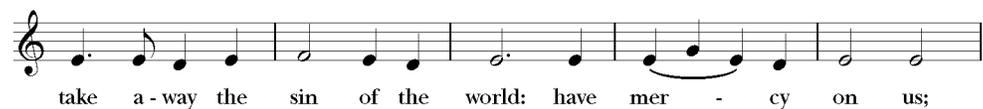
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



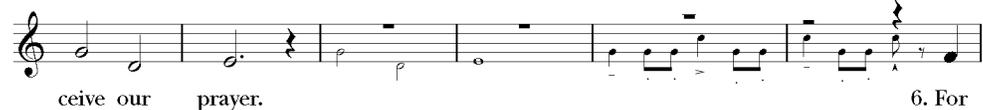
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



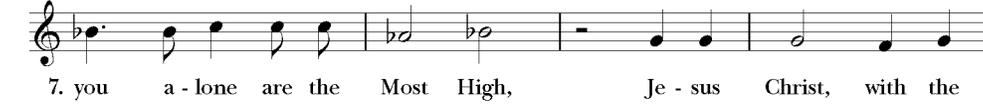
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. 6. For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*            The Lord be with you.

*People*                ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant*            Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

**Isaiah 58:1-9a**

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

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 delight to draw near to God.

“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.

Look, 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.

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?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
    to loose the bonds of injustice,  
    to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,  
    and to break every yoke?

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?

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.  
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 112:1-9**

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great 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 will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

## **Second Reading**

## **1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

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

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 doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 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”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn: *Blessed Assurance***

64 **Blessed Assurance**

FANNY J. CROSBY MRS. J. F. KNAPP

1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of  
 2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, Vi-sions of rap-ture now  
 3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,  
 burst on my sight; An-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove  
 hap-py and blest; Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

CHORUS

Born of His Spir-it, washed in His blood.  
 Ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry, this is my  
 Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; This is my sto-ry,

this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

## Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “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.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 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.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 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. 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. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

Rev. Carolyne Adhola

**Nicene Creed** *found on page 358 in the Book of Common Prayer*

*All stand, as the People and Celebrant say together.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People, Form III – *found on page 387 in the Book of Common Prayer***

*People kneeling, as able, the Leader and People pray responsively*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and  
humbly serve you;  
***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations  
of the world;  
***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to Ruth Pellow, Paul Maples and all the departed eternal rest;  
***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

We pray all members of our parish and especially for: Jamie Bridgers, Ann Rhodes, Jim & Deb Johnson, Patricia Smith, Joan Davidson, Matt Stephenson, John & Susan Dempsey, Ellen Massey, Bill Olson, Cindy Perkey, Isabelle Tenace, Dana & Bob Teichart, Mabelle Christiansen, Martha Healey, Mike Mundy, Natalie Molineaux, and Marilyn Smith.

And we pray for our family and friends for whom our prayers have been requested: Kitten Lawless, DeAnna McCool, Robin Goertz, Gerry Goertz & Jinny Goertz, Tom & Kathy Celestine, David Smith, Lucy Harris, Adam M, Charlotte, Daniel & Steven King, Sherry Snow, Mark Higginbotham, Danny Yeager, Shannon Bohnert, Micah Jordon, Rodney Brady, John V. Miller, Ben Handford, Jim Reynolds, Peggy Comer, Kristin, Georgina Mosser, Kristi Smith, Raymond Staggs, Gary & Phylis Bratton, Connie Barnett, Q, James & Lois Work, Wilma, Edie Knowles, Mitchell Dobson, Sharon Runyan, Eleanor, Shelly & Heath Wooldridge, Walter Hopper, Linda Brewer, Sarah Mosser, Nicole Haskins, Linda Healey Morgan, Ina Bolten, Sandra Coe, the Teague Family, Kera Cook & family, Jacqueline Levy, Gina, Linda, Autumn & Our Father's Table, Hank Pearce, Sharon Santangelo and Ellie & Clarke.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially: *Rocky Willmuth* (2/3), Cathy Dozier (2/8), Kim Dunlap (2/12), Henry Goodwin (2/13), and Troy & Pat Mason (2/14).

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **Confession**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that 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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## **Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Announcements

# The Holy Communion

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with an Offertory sentence.*

**Offertory: Hallelujah From The Mount Of Olives**

L.V. Beethoven

**Doxology: 43 v.4**

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

## The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B

*The people remain standing*

*Celebrant* *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

## Sanctus (S125): *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

*Celebrant*

Therefore, according to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

*Celebrant and People*

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -

rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with blessed Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*The Celebrant then continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

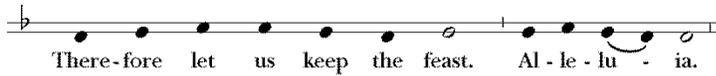
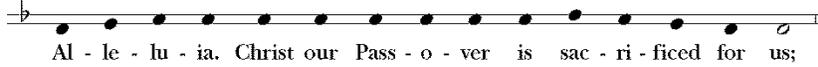
**And lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*This setting is not used in Lent.*



*This setting may be sung full by all, or by the choir, or as a versicle and response.*

*The Celebrant may say the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **Communion Hymn: *I Want to Walk as A Child of The Light***

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

### **BCP 365:**

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Blessing

The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and; the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## Post Communion Hymn 594: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.  
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:  
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
 let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this  
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these  
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's  
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

### Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

### Organ Postlude