

CONNECTED TO CHRIST, CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER, CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY

## Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 8, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM



## Trinity Lutheran Church



195 Claremont Avenue | P.O. Box 15303

Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

201-435-9807

[www.trinityjerseycity.com](http://www.trinityjerseycity.com)

The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

## Order of Service

### *~ Gathering ~*

† Welcome

\*† Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection, and self-examination.)*

P: Holy God,

**C: You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin – our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. 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**

\*† Entrance Hymn: "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" TFBF 191

*1 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.*

\*Congregation Standing  
**Bold Font:** Congregation Response

*I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.*

*2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.  
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.  
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.*

*3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.*

#### **\*† 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.**

#### **\*† Kyrie**

A: *In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: *For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: *For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: *For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy,**

A: *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

**C: Amen**

## \*† Hymn of Praise

*This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.*

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.*

*Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.*

*Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.*

*Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

## \*† 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.**

## ~God's Word ~

### † First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

<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;

\*Congregation Standing

**Bold Font:** Congregation Response

they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.

<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 shall go before you;  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

[ <sup>9b</sup>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.  
12 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.]

### † Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]; *refrain*, Ps. 112:4

*Refrain: Light shines in the darkness for the upright.*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who I fear the Lord  
and have great delight in I God's commandments!  
<sup>2</sup> Their descendants will be mighty I in the land;  
the generation of the upright I will be blessed.  
<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be I in their house,  
and their righteousness will I last forever.  
<sup>4</sup> Light shines in the darkness I for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full I of compassion. R  
<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be gener- I ous in lending  
and to manage their af- I fairs with justice.  
<sup>6</sup> For they will nev- I er be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlast- I ing remembrance.  
<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any I evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting I in the Lord.  
<sup>8</sup> Their heart is established and I will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up- I on their enemies.  
<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands I fast forever;  
they will hold up their I head with honor.  
[ <sup>10</sup> The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and I pine away;  
the desires of the wick- I ed will perish. R]

### † Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony 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

\*Congregation Standing  
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of wisdom 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>14</sup> Those who are unspiritual 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.]

### \*† Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter

C: *Glory to you, Glory to you, Glory to you, O Lord*

### \*† Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

[Jesus said:] <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 under foot.

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<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, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> 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. <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 be to you, Praise be to you, Praise be to you, O Christ*

† Adult Choir Anthem: “The Lord is My Light”

† Sermon: The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

† Sermon Hymn: “Shine On Me” TFBF 62

*1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto me and rest, and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast."*

*Refrain:*

*Shine on me, shine on me,  
let the light from the lighthouse shine on me.  
Oh, shine on me, shine on me,  
let the light from the lighthouse shine on me.*

*2 With pitying eyes the Prince of Peace  
beheld our helpless grief, our grief;  
he saw, and oh, amazing love!  
He came to our relief. [Refrain]*

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~ *Prayer* ~

\*† The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended into hell.\*  
On the third day He rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
He will come again 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 the People

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones (*areas of conflict may be named*). We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.  
**Amen.**

#### **\*† Sharing of the Peace**

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

C: And also with you.

#### **\*† Offering Canticle**

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.*

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*Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
Give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

**\*† Offertory Prayer**

**A:** Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C:** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*~ Meal ~*

**\*† The 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.

**A:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**P:** It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C:** Holy, holy, holy Lord.

**Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*† Words of Institution**

**\*† 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.**

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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**

### † Holy Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.*

### † Communion Hymn: "Let Us Break Bread Together" TFBF 123

*1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.*

*Refrain:*

*When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]*

*3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]*

### \*† Post Communion Blessing

*(After all have returned to their places:)*

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

### \*† Post Communion Canticle

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*Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people. A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.*

**\*† Post Communion Prayer**

A: Let us pray.

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **C: Amen.**

**† Welcome, Acknowledgment of Visitors, and Announcements**

**\*† Benediction**

**\*† Hymn: "We Are Marching in the Light of God" TFBF 63**

*We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching, marching We are marching Oh Oh We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching, marching We are marching Oh Oh We are marching in the light of God*

*We are dancing in the light of God... ....*

*We are singing in the light of God... ....*

**\*† Dismissal**

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## Announcements

- ◆ Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday via Zoom. Next session will be February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM - **Meeting ID: 822 8031 9117 Passcode: 709073**
- ◆ Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. Next session February 15<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 2PM – 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next meeting Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity will host a **Fish-Fry fundraiser** on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 12PM – 4PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Annual Congregation Meeting** will be Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> following service.
- ◆ **Ash Wednesday**, February 18th
  - ◆ **Ashes to Go**, Christ Our Redeemer @ Warner & Ocean 10 am - 11:30 am
  - ◆ **Ashes to Go**, Trinity Lutheran @ Claremont & MLK Noon to 1:30 pm
  - ◆ **Ashes to Go**, Bethany Lutheran @ JFK BLVD & Audubon Ave 1:45 - 2:30 pm
  - ◆ **Ash Wednesday Service**, Christ Our Redeemer @ 6 pm
  - ◆ **Ash Wednesday Service**, Trinity Lutheran @ 7 pm
- ◆ **Free Tax Preparers!** Every Wednesday through April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM – 12PM. Federal and State Income Taxes prepared and filed electronically. Call 201-435-9807 to schedule an appointment. No walk-ins allowed.
- ◆ Trinity is selling "**Faith Over Fear**" T-Shirts in 3 different designs. Short-sleeved: \$20; Long-sleeved: \$23. Please check our website for the designs and order info.
- ◆ Visit our **Gifts & Talents Wall** in the Fellowship Hall. Share how you would like to use your gifts and talents to serve the church. This will help us plan for new ministries in 2026.
- ◆ Trinity's **Pew Rededication** fundraiser... Your donation supports the pew restoration labor and the installation of a personalized legacy name plate on your

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selected pew. \$500 for center aisle; \$300 for window aisle. Contact Tina Richardson at 201-435-9807 for more info.

- ◆ You may pay your Tithes & Offerings online at <http://www.trinityjerseycity.com>
- ◆ **For pastoral care call Pastor Dianne Lewis at 201.435.9807**