

February 8 2026

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Messiah Lutheran

Amherst, NH



# Mass of Steady Light

liturgical musical setting by Jon Abrams

Dedicated with gratitude to those who  
gather, sing, and trust the work of worship.

## PRELUDE Jon Abrams

## WORDS OF WELCOME

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

## ELW 532 Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ter,  
 light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-ge-ther,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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## 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.**

33

—est and peace to His peo - ple on earth — Lord Je—sus Chirst on—ly

Son of the Fa——ther Lord God— Lamb of God — You take a - way

the sin of the world — have mercy — on us — Glory to

God — in the high — est and peace to His people on earth —

seated are you — at the right hand of God the Father — re-

- ceive our prayer For you a-lone are the ho-ly one You a-lone are the Lord

You a-lone are most high Jesus Christ — with the spi-rit most ho — ly the

Glo - ry of God. Glory to God in the high — est and peace to His

peo - ple His peo - ple His peo - ple peace to His peo — ple His peo —

ple on earth A — men

## 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

A reading from the 58<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah:

<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>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.

<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.

Word of God, word of life.      **Thanks be to God**

**PSALMODY 112:1-10 (sung responsively)**

MLC Psalm Tone I

MLC Psalm tones by J. Abrams 2024

C:



<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.**

<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.**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of 1 Corinthians:

<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 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

J. O. Damer

Voice

Al - le - lu - ia      Al - le - lu - ia      Your word is a lamp to my feet and a

light to my path      Al - le - lu - ia

## GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.

<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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**Rev. Ed Costa**

## SERMON

**Rev. Ed Costa**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## ELW 677 This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935  
 Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## 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

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*) Claudette Briere, Ed Costa, Norm and Polly Cote, Deloris Jay, Carol Clark, Elia Herlinda Soteldo Cuica, Kayann Laughlin, Timothy Alexander, The Wurst Family, Rev Bob Kocher, Shelly Stama, Eric Ball, Connor McCaffrey, Marc Bouchard, Jeffery Lindenberg, Jim Bellig, Diane Hazel, Linnea Micciulla, Phil Stinnett, Susan Poutre, Krista Seckinger, Carly King, Christine Covel, the Demello family, John and Wilma Minnick, Karma, Barbara Scholz, Carly Hoeni, The Family of John Gottman.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries including Share, bless the efforts of AMMPARO, the ELCA congregations of the New Hampshire conference, Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Disaster Response, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire, Border Servant Corps, His mansion.

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.**

## **PEACE**

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

## OFFERING

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**† Christ has died.**

**† Christ is risen.**

**† Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## COMMUNION

John O'Dowd

Voice

5 9

Lamb of — God — You take a-way the sin of the world have mercy on us —

13

Lamb of — God — you take a-way the sin of the world have mercy on us —

17 21 25

Lamb of — God — you take a-way the sin of the world Grant us — peace



COMMUNION HYMN ELW 712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,  
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;  
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light  
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:  
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,  
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985

Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

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## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

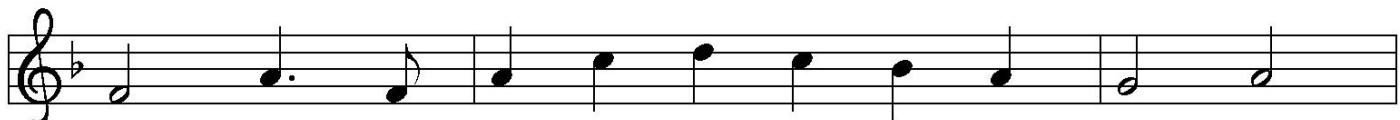
God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

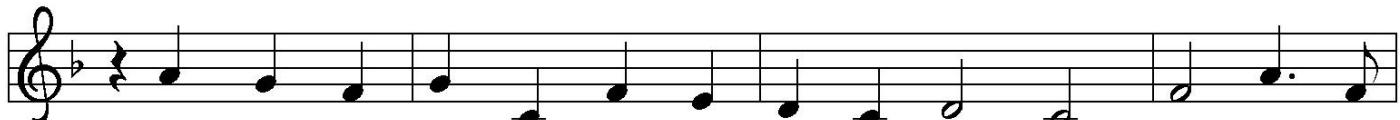
### BLESSING

- The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
- The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
- The God of all grace  bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN     ELW 665    **Rise, Shine, You People!**



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003

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## SENDING

Go and let your light so shine before others... **That God might be glorified. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

Jon Abrams



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Rev. Ed Costa been authorized to preside at today's service by Bishop Nathan  
D. Piph from the New England Synod.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	February 8th 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	February 15th Transfiguration of Our Lord	February 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent
Preacher & Presider	E. Costa	K. Hester	K. Hester
Liturgist	B. Mitchell	Doreen Rinas	T. Costa
Musician	J. Abrams	J. Abrams	J. Abrams
Reader	J. Reitter	David Rinas	D. Cordts
Greeters/Ushers	Schurs	Costas	Neukams
Altar	R. Meldrum	M. Ball	R. Ede
Bread	D. Cordts	Schurs	T. Costa
Tech	R. Meldrum	D. Schur	R. Neukam
Snacks	K. Hester	C. Wisneski	Schurs
Lead Counter	B. Mitchell	Meldrum	D. Cordts

