



Sunday, February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Welcome to First Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Taylors Falls

We are glad you are here!

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: Your promises have never wavered, and yet we are not always willing to believe them. We descend into our own despair, unable to see past our immediate concerns. We drag others down with us and live to complain and commiserate. We ignore the miracles in front of our face. Forgive us for living such small lives, O God, and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people. Amen.

P: God is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the one who promised from of old to set us free, and who seeks and finds us to this very day. Alleluia!

C: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: God will always guide us,

C: Satisfying our every need.

P: God makes us strong,

C: Watering us like a garden.

P: What was destroyed will be rebuilt,

C: And we will receive God's renewing Spirit.

OPENING HYMN: Gather Us In

ELW #532

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God,

C: You are the giver of all light. Make us shine like lamps to guide others to your kingdom, that everyone might come to your great city of grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: I am the Light of the World

Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a[9b-12]

¹ 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. ² 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. 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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?

⁶ 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? ⁷ 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? ⁸ 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. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ 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. 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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 112:1-10 (read responsively)

R: Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in God’s commandments.

C: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

R: Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

C: Light shines in the darkness for the upright; and the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

R: It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

C: For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

R: They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

C: Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.

R: They have given freely to the poor, and righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

**C: The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
and desires of the wicked will perish.**

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: This Little Light of Mine (vs 1)

ELW #677

This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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. ¹⁸For 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. ¹⁹Therefore, 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. ²⁰For 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 to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Take My Life, That I May Be (vs 1,2,3,6)

ELW #685

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: 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.

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: Create In Me

ELW #186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

C: If we give to those in need but still oppress them, we are doing no good, O God. Teach us your ways, so that we can know how to best serve your beloved children. Bless these gifts we offer here today, and may they be the first step toward serving you in ever deeper ways, for the sake of our savior Jesus. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: You are the salt of the earth.

C: We are called to a faith full of flavor.

P: You are the light of the world.

C: We are called to a faith that shines brightly.

P: Do not let the salt of your faith become bland.

C: We so often hold ourselves back, afraid of how we are perceived.

P: Do not let the light of your faith go unseen.

C: We so often hide it, afraid of failure.

P: God does not expect perfection from you.

C: We know it is impossible.

P: God only calls you into the fullness of faith you already possess.

C: God help us to take risks for the sake of the world.

P: Let your light so shine before others,

C: That they will see the fruits of our good works and know they come from God.

CLOSING HYMN: This Little Light of Mine

ELW #677

MISSION STATEMENT

P: People of First Evangelical, what is our mission?

C: Proclaim the Gospel and Serve our Neighbors.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Our Calendar 2/8—2/15

Sunday 2/8

9am Worship at Immanuel
10am Fellowship
11am Worship
12:15pm Council Meeting

Monday 2/9

8:30am Counters Meet

Tuesday 2/10

5pm Choir Practice @ ILC

Wednesday 2/11

10am Book Study @ The Lodge

Thursday 2/12

Happy Birthday, Orval Curry!
9am Wisdom Seekers
2:30pm Coffee @ The Lodge

Friday 2/13

4:30pm Community Meal—ILC

Saturday 2/14

Sunday 2/15

9am Worship at Immanuel
10am Fellowship
11am Worship w/ Sunday School

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Pastor Justin Fenger

Music: Toni Brekke

Council on Duty: Becky Hulden

Ushers: Natalie Landgreen

Reader: Rita Johnson

Sound System: Angie & Jason I

Fellowship Host: Becky Hulden

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Announcements

Welcome guests!!!! We are so happy you are here to worship with us today! Please sign our guest book and connect with an usher for a special gift!

Discipleship Needs: Visit the usher stand to sign up for church discipleship: reading, ushering, running the sound system & hosting/bringing treats for Fellowship hour. **We need hosts for Wed. Lenten Lunch following the service.

Wanted: Small Snacks for the children's table in the back of the sanctuary. We have fruit snacks, but looking for animal crackers, goldfish crackers, mini ritz crackers, etc. Please bring them to the church office!!

Easter Food Drive!!! Family Pathways is putting together 150 Easter Food Baskets for families in need. Our church has been asked to contribute 150 boxes of quick bread!!! Bin is located in the room across from the office.

Book Study at The Lodge: February 11th at 10am. There are two books available if you'd like to join! See Wendy S with questions!

Community Meal is on Friday, February 13th at Immanuel Lutheran in Almelund from 4:30-6:30pm. All are welcome!

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper Tues, Feb. 17th from 4:30-6:30pm at Chisago Lake Lutheran. We are looking for volunteers to help - sign up near the usher stand.

Game Night! Supper and games - join us for a fun evening on Thursday, February 19th from 4:30-6:30pm.

Palm Sunday Breakfast: We will be hosting a pancake breakfast at 10am on Palm Sunday! If you are able to volunteer to help setting up, cooking, serving, and clean up, please sign up at the usher stand!

PRAYERCARE Levi Linnegren, The family of Norma Strand, the Rivard Family, Cindy Weslander, Kathy Kowalke, the family of Josh Brown, the family of Edna Curry, Randy Valez, James Hudspeth, Helen Swanson, Marcille Rogers, Jeff Rogers, Verna Grover, Dave Danberg, Jeanne Fick and the family of Cleo Stomberg.