

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 5, 2023**

Welcome

P This is the day that the Lord has made!

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self examination

P Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Greeting

P 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.**

Praise Song

Shine, Jesus Shine

Lord, the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, River, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, from the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness, search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Repeat Chorus

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness, so our faces display Your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Repeat Chorus

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray together. **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.**

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

First Reading *Isaiah 58:1-12*

Shout the message! Don't hold back. Say to my people Israel: You've sinned! You've turned against the Lord. Day after day, you worship him and seem eager to learn his teachings. You act like a nation that wants to do right by obeying his laws. You ask him about justice, and say you enjoy worshiping the Lord. You wonder why the Lord pays no attention when you go without eating and act humble. But on those same days that you give up eating, you think only of yourselves and abuse your workers. You even get angry and ready to fight. No wonder God won't listen to your prayers! Do you think the Lord wants you to give up eating and to act as humble as a bent-over bush? Or to dress in sackcloth and sit in ashes? Is this really what he wants on a day of worship?

I'll tell you what it really means to worship the Lord. Remove the chains of prisoners who are bound unjustly. Free those who are abused! Share your food with everyone who is hungry; share your home with the poor and homeless. Give clothes to those in need; don't turn away your relatives. Then your light will shine like the dawning sun, and you will quickly be healed. Your honesty will protect you as you advance, and the glory of the Lord will defend you from behind.

When you beg the Lord for help, he will answer, "Here I am!" Don't mistreat others or falsely accuse them or say something cruel. Give your food to the hungry and care for the homeless. Then your light will shine in the dark; your darkest hour will be like the noonday sun. The Lord will always guide you and provide good things to eat when you are in the desert. He will make you healthy. You will be like a garden that has plenty of water or like a stream that never runs dry. You will rebuild those houses left in ruins for years; you will be known as a builder and repairer of city walls and streets.

....*The Word of the Lord*
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112:1-9

¹ Shout praises to the LORD! The LORD blesses everyone who worships him and gladly obeys his teachings.

² **Their descendants will have great power in the land, because the LORD blesses all who do right.**

³ They will get rich and prosper and will always be remembered for their fairness.

⁴ **They will be so kind and merciful and good, that they will be a light in the dark for others who do the right thing.**

⁵ Life will go well for those who freely lend and are honest in business.

⁶ **They won't ever be troubled, and the kind things they do will never be forgotten.**

⁷ Bad news won't bother them; they have decided to trust the LORD.

⁸ **They are dependable and not afraid, and they will live to see their enemies defeated.**

⁹ They will always be remembered and greatly praised, because they were kind and freely gave to the poor.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Friends, when I came and told you the mystery that God had shared with us, I didn't use big words or try to sound wise. In fact, while I was with you, I made up my mind to speak only about Jesus Christ, who had been nailed to a cross.

At first, I was weak and trembling with fear. When I talked with you or preached, I didn't try to prove anything by sounding wise. I simply let God's Spirit show his power. That way you would have faith because of God's power and not because of human wisdom.

We do use wisdom when speaking to people who are mature in their faith. But it isn't the wisdom of this world or of its rulers, who will soon disappear. We speak of God's hidden and mysterious wisdom that God decided to use for our glory long before the world began. The rulers of this world didn't know anything about this wisdom. If they had known about it, they would not have nailed the glorious Lord to a cross. But it is just as the Scriptures say, "What God has planned for people who love him is more than eyes have seen or ears have heard. It has never even entered our minds!"

God's Spirit has shown you everything. His Spirit finds out everything, even what is deep in the mind of God. You are the only one who knows what is in your own mind, and God's Spirit is the only one who knows what is in God's mind. But God has given us his Spirit. This is why we don't think the same way that the people of this world think. This is also why we can recognize the blessings God has given us.

Every word we speak was taught to us by God's Spirit, not by human wisdom. And this same Spirit helps us teach spiritual things to spiritual people. This is why only someone who has God's Spirit can understand spiritual blessings. Anyone who doesn't have God's Spirit thinks these blessings are foolish. People who are guided by the Spirit can make all kinds of judgments, but they cannot be judged by others. The Scriptures ask, "Has anyone ever known the thoughts of the Lord or given him advice?" But we understand what Christ is thinking.

....*The Word of the Lord*

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

(sung) Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel ***Matthew 5:13-20***

“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 underfoot. “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.

...The Gospel of the Lord

(sung) Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Time

Please be seated

Choir Anthem

I'm Gonna Let it Shine

Meditation

Hymn

O God of Mercy, God of Light

O God of mercy, God of light,
in love and mercy infinite,
teach us, as ever in your sight,
to live our lives in you.

each other's burdens help us share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

Teach us the lesson Jesus taught:
to feel for those his blood has bought,
that ev'ry deed and word and thought
may work a work for you.

And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
those who have lived to you.

In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

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 to the dead. 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 Church

A Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, and for our men and women in the armed forces. We also ask for your healing and comfort for Glenda, Ralph, Evelyn, Dorothy and Cynthia, and for your mercy and blessing on those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud:

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Show us your will for the ministries of TOL and Augustana, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: (*sung*): **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray. **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.**

{P Come and taste the joy of God!}

Communion Song

Please be seated

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.

Communion will be as follows: Please come up the aisle, pulpit side first, to receive the body/bread or a blessing, then move to receive the blood/wine/grape juice. Place empty glass in receptacle as you return to your seat.

Communion: *From the Small Catechism of Martin Luther: “that person is well prepared [to receive communion] who believes these words, **given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, for the words for you simply require a believing heart.**”*

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

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

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Go My Children With My Blessing

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.
- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
- 3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.
- 4 “I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you, and give you peace.
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.
Go, my children, I will keep you, and give you peace.”

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation

PASTOR: The Rev. Frederick Kopp

Church Office: 716-836-4868 Office Email: trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com

Pastor's Study: 716-836-4990 Email: pastor_tol@verizon.net

Website: www.trinityoldlutheran.com

Music Minister: Don Grabau

Today's Worship Assistant: Charlie Schmidtke

Today's Prayer Partner: Diane Schmidtke

February 5, 2023 Announcements

Welcome: We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time.

Prayer Partner Ministry: If you are in need of additional prayer, please come to the altar following worship. Prayers are confidential. Today's prayer partner is Diane Schmidtke.

Today's Altar Flowers: The flowers are given for the Glory of God from Debbie Feger in celebration of grandson Weston's 3rd birthday and from Velma Achenbach in celebration of grandson Matthew's birthday.

Table Talk: Please join us for our monthly (2nd Wednesday of each month) discussion group; our next session will be this **Wednesday, February 8**. Our focus will be on Oprah Winfrey's "Belief" video series. A discussion will follow each episode. We meet from 6:30 till 8 pm, and there will also be a Zoom option. (Please contact Charlie Schmidtke for the link.) This discussion group is held in the evening so that those who might work during the day will be able to attend.

Women's Luncheon Group: We will meet at TOL this **Thursday, February 9, at 12 noon**, and we will drive to the Olympia Family Restaurant (3312 Niagara Falls Blvd. in North Tonawanda). We plan on carpooling—so please be here by noon! If you have any questions, please contact Judy Menz at 716-435-6077 or Barb Maugans at 716-692-8116. Everyone is invited to join us!

Bible Study: Pastor Fred continues the **six-week** Bible study on the Book of Hebrews, this **Friday, February 10**. We meet at Augustana Lutheran church on Fridays from 10:00 – 11:30 am. One can attend in person or on Zoom (please contact us for the Zoom link). Please join us any Friday!

WWI: We will meet next **Sunday, Feb. 12**, following the Worship service, in the Fireside Lounge to discuss upcoming events. All women are invited to attend. Hope to see you there!

Adult Ed: We continue with the discussions of who the “Real Jesus” may be. We’ll delve into his childhood and young adult life from a variety of sources. Classes are led by Charlie Schmidtke, we meet at **1 pm**, and there will also be a Zoom option.

Monday, February 13

The Essenes’ Influence on Jesus

Monday, February 27

Jesus According to Thomas and Judas

Pizza Lunch: Come join us for a pizza/Valentines’ Day lunch in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, February 19** following our worship service. All are welcome!! Please sign up on the main bulletin board.

Ash Wednesday: The season of Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 22**. Ashes will be distributed that day at **11 am** at Augustana Lutheran Church and at **7 pm** at TOL. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2669 Sheridan Drive, will also distribute “Ashes to go” at noon.

Mid-week Lenten Services and Soup Suppers: Here is this year’s schedule of Wednesday Lenten soup suppers (6 pm) and worship services (7 pm):

March 1 TOL

March 8 Abiding Savior, 1534 Ruie Rd., North Tonawanda

March 15 Augustana Lutheran Church, 3143 Eggert Rd., Tonawanda

March 22 Good Shepherd, 2669 Sheridan Dr., Tonawanda

March 29 St. Martin’s, 322 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda

Annual Congregational Meeting: Our annual meeting, following the worship service, is scheduled for **Sunday, March 5**. If you have not already done so, please submit your team’s 2022 report to the church office no later than **Sunday, February 19** for inclusion in the printed booklet. Copies of the printed Annual Report will be available by **Sunday, February 26**, or we can email one to you on that date, if requested.

Offering: Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only—please don’t mail cash. We also have online giving through tithe.ly, which can be accessed through TOL’s website homepage (www.trinityoldlutheran). If you have a smartphone, you can download the Tithe.ly app. Instructions for both ways of giving through Tithe.ly are on our website’s homepage. Please call the office at (716) 836-4868 if you have any questions.

Souper Bowl of Caring: Next **Sunday, February 12**, we have an opportunity to help fight hunger in our community by making a monetary donation to our soup pot in the narthex or by bringing in pantry staples and canned goods for the shopping cart (see the list below). All food and monetary donations will be donated to Community of Good Neighbors and/or Good Shepherd’s food pantry. Always welcome are grocery donations of non-perishable items (and gift cards to grocery stores), such as:

Soups and other canned goods (vegetables, tuna, beans, etc.)

Peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, applesauce

Breakfast items: cereal, oatmeal, grits, granola bars

Boxes of pantry staples: instant potatoes, rice, mac and cheese, pasta, ramen noodles

(Please check food expiration dates before donating.)

Paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)

Personal care (feminine hygiene products, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers, etc.)

Food items can be dropped off here at TOL Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. – noon - just ring the doorbell to let the office know that you're here. Thank you for your generosity!

Mission for February: During the month of February, we will focus on Hearts and Hands. Please see the article in your February Trinity Tidings, and we thank you for your donations to this important organization.

Operation Christmas Child: Once again, we are collecting items for shoeboxes throughout the year. There is a list of items needed in the Trinity Tidings and a collection box in the narthex for your items. For the month of February the suggested donations are hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks. Thank you for your continued support.

Friends of Night People Info: Thank you to all the volunteers who continue to make 100 sandwiches each week! In addition to the sandwich ministry, there is a barrel in the main hallway for clothing donations, and in the narthex there is a tote for new socks, small sized hygiene products, such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Thank you, everyone!

Worship on Cable TV: If you are unable to join us for in-person or Zoom worship on Sundays, Lutheran worship is available on Cable TV channel 5, MeTV, Sundays at 10:00 am. "Church Unleashed" is led by Lutheran Pastors Beigner, Griffiths and Smith.

Book and Puzzle Sale: Stop by the TOL book and puzzle sale in the Resource Library, in the first room off the hallway past the main bulletin board, where you'll find something for readers of all ages at a fraction of the usual cost! New items are continually being added!

This week's calendar

<i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly. Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 am–12 noon. Please note that the office is unstaffed on Mondays. For a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Fred. For office related matters, please leave a voice mail message or send an email.</i>	Sun	2/5	9:30 am 11 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Abiding Faith Worship GA and GAMAnon Meetings
	Mon	2/6	10 am 5:45 pm	OA Meeting Yoga (in Studio and Zoom)
	Tues	2/7	9 am 7 pm 7:30 pm	Sandwich Team #4 Worship & Music Team CoDA
	Wed	2/8	12 noon 5:45 pm 6:30 pm	Yoga (via Zoom) Yoga (in Studio and Zoom) Table Talk
	Thurs	2/9	12 noon 9:30 am 5:45 pm	Women's Luncheon Group – meet at TOL Yoga (in Studio and Zoom) Yoga (in Studio and Zoom)

	Fri	2/10	10 am	Bible Study at Augustana
	Sat	2/11		
	Sun	2/12	9:30 am 11 am 12 noon 3:30 pm 7 pm	<i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL WWI meeting – Fireside Lounge Abiding Faith Worship GA and GAMAnon Meetings

Announcements: If you'd like to submit a bulletin or Tidings announcement, please send to trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com or call 716-836-4868 by Wednesday morning. Thank you.

TOL's Free WiFi and Password:
N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

