



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

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**Prelude:** Three Renaissance Pieces (Te Deum, Lauda Sion, Processional) - Anon., F. C. de Arauxo

**Words of welcome & Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgement**

### GATHERING

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**  
Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails,

God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**





**Gathering Hymn- Gather Us In (ELW 532)**

**Greeting (ELW page 175)**

**Kyrie 7**

**Gloria 7 (ELW page 176)**

**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.**

### **WORD**

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

<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.*

### **Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]**



*Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD  
and have great delight in | God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;**  
**the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be | in their house,  
and their righteousness will | last forever.

<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion. R**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be gener<sup>l</sup>ous in lending  
and to manage their aff<sup>l</sup>airs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For they will nev<sup>l</sup>er be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlast<sup>l</sup>ing remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trust<sup>l</sup>ing | in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up<sup>l</sup>on their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast  
forever;  
they will hold up their | head with honor.

[<sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth  
and | pine away; the desires of the wick<sup>l</sup>ed will perish. R]**

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

<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. [<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.]

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

**Gospel Acclamation 7** (ELW page 179)

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **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.”

*The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ*

**Homily - Rev. Mei Sum Lai**

**Hymn of the Day- Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (ELW 712)**

**Apostles Creed (ELW page 105)**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Peace**

**Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (ELW 207)**

**Offering Prayer**

**MEAL**

**Dialog & Preface (ELW page 180)**

**Holy, Holy, Holy 7**

**Great Thanksgiving**



**Lord's Prayer** (ELW page 182)  
**Lamb of God 7** (ELW page 182)  
**Invitation to Communion**  
**Communion Hymn- Here Is Bread** (ELW 483)  
**Prayer after Communion**

**SENDING**

**Blessing**  
**Sending Hymn- Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ** (ELW 674)  
**Dismissal**  
**Postlude: Sortie - Léon Boëllmann**

***Those Serving the Servants Today***

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Rev. Mei Sum Lai	<b>Livestream Tech</b>	Emmanuel Manu
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Rachel Alflatt	<b>Usher</b>	-
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Russell Collins	<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Heidi Ackermann
<b>Cantor</b>	Heidi Ackermann	<b>Communion Assist.</b>	Aria
<b>Lector</b>	-	<b>Coffee Hour Hosts</b>	Ingrid Tymm Cheri Ditsche