



CHURCH @ HOME SERVICE ORDER

**Sunday, 8 February 2026
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany**



A PRAYER FOR OPEN HEARTS AND EARS

**Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh,
open our ears to hear your voice and our hearts to trust your promises.**

**Where we are distracted, focus us;
where we are weary, strengthen us;
where we are guarded, soften us by your grace.**

Let your truth take root in us and bear fruit for the life of the world.

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus says, "You are the salt of the earth."

We are made salt by his grace, to serve and preserve in his name.

Jesus says, "You are the light of the world."

May we shine with the light we have first received, the light of Christ.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

OUR GOD IS LOVE

**Our God is love, and all his saints
his image bear below;
the hearts with love to God inspired
with love to others glow.**

**Teach us to love each other, Lord,
as we are loved by you;
none who are truly born of God
can live in hatred too.**

**Heirs of the same immortal bliss,
our hopes and fears the same,
with bonds of love our hearts unite,
with mutual love inflame.**

**So may the unbelieving world
see how true Christians love;
and glorify our Saviour's grace,
and seek that grace to prove.**

Thomas Cotterill
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LORD HAVE MERCY

(spoken)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

YOU ARE GLORIOUS

You are glorious.

**Ev'ry knee shall bow to one victorious,
now exalted to the highest place of all,
Every tongue confess that you are Lord of all,
Lord of all.**

**And we belong to you,
we love your name,
the name above all other names
and Your glory is upon us now
as we worship you,
King of Kings.**

**You are glorious.
Ev'ry knee shall bow to one victorious,
now exalted to the highest place of all,
Every tongue confess that you are Lord of all.
Lord of all.**

Sharny Russel
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*The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious God,
you call us to be salt and light in the world.
Keep us grounded in the faith you have given us,
so that the light of Christ shines through our lives.
Teach us to rely on Jesus, who has fulfilled the law for us,
and shape us by your Spirit to love others. Amen.**

PSALM 112:1-9

Praise the Lord.
Blessed are those who fear the Lord,
who find great delight in his commands.
Their children will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures for ever.
Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,
for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.
Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

Surely the righteous will never be shaken;
they will be remembered for ever.
They will have no fear of bad news;
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,
their righteousness endures for ever;
their horn will be lifted high in honour.

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.**

Amen.

BIBLE READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a The Lord desires kindness and justice

‘Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. “Why have we fasted,” they say, “and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?” ‘Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ‘Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: here am I.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Christ crucified- God's power and wisdom

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

Matthew 5:13-20 You are salt of the earth and light of the world

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the

smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**I am the light of the world
You people come and follow me
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be**

**To find the lost and lonely one
To heal the broken soul with love
To feed the hungry children
With warmth and good food
To feel the earth below the sky above**

**I am the light of the world
You people come and follow me
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be**

**To free the pris'ner from all chains
To make the powerful care
To rebuild the nations with strength of good will
To see God's children ev'rywhere**

**I am the light of the world
You people come and follow me
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be**

**To bring hope to ev'ry task you do
To dance at a baby's new birth
To make music in an old person's heart
And sing to the colors of the earth**

**I am the light of the world
You people come and follow me
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be**

Jim Strathdee

Song #7068562

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MESSAGE

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

CONFESSION OF SINS

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

A LITTLE BIT OF SALT

**A little bit of salt will quickly show its worth;
A little bit of faithfulness will change the earth.
God, make us worth our salt — a church that's glad to be
The change that you desire in each community.**

**A lamp that's in a house gives safety, warmth and light;
It's set upon a table where it shines so bright.
God, make your church a light that bravely takes a stand
To bring your love and justice into all the land.**

**It's tempting to remain well-hidden, quiet, bland —
Yet, God, you make us salt and light to change this land.
You send us out to love, to build and to repair,
Till peace and justice flourish here and everywhere.**

OFFERING PRAYER

**Gracious God,
you call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. All that we have comes from your generous hand. Receive these offerings as signs of lives shaped by your grace in Jesus Christ. Use them to bring your light where there is darkness and your hope where it is fading. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jesus says: You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We pray now for the world in which we are called to let our light shine; for the people who will see our good deeds; and for the church in which the light of the gospel is proclaimed.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Provide faithful pastors to preach your good news and to teach your commandments. Strengthen the faith of your people through word and sacrament. Bless the members of our congregation that they may be salt and light in the world. Bring to faith those who do not yet know you.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Have mercy on all nations and bless our own land. Bring honesty and justice, peace and safety everywhere. Bless and protect people in work and leisure.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Comfort those who are suffering, downcast or oppressed. Lift the fallen and satisfy the needs of the hungry, refugees, the homeless and those who lack even basics such as clothing. Help all who are in any trouble.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

We pray for God's guidance and blessings for all members and friends of our congregation. Today we pray for Meryl; Larry & Cheryl; Jillian; Rob & Elma; Robin, Jessica, Lucy & Thomas

*Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.***

Bless the families, students, and staff at all our Grace Places. Today we pray specially for GLPS Students Bentley in Prep; Michael, Amity, Scarlet, Nerissa, William, Marcus & Zoe in Year 4; Eli & Orlando in Year 5; Seanna, Alexander, Natalie & Patrick in Year 6; and staff members Dominique S & Jacqueline White. Please provide for all their needs and guide them into your truth and love.

*Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.***

Father, your Son is the light shining in the darkness of our world. Teach us to love one another as you love us, so that we may bring peace and joy to the world. Hear our prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING TO SHARE

May you be salt, sharing Christ's love wherever you go.
May you be salt, sharing Christ's love wherever you go.
May you be light, shining hope into dark places.
May you be light, shining hope into dark places.
May the peace of Christ go with you, now and always.
May the peace of Christ go with you, now and always. Amen.

BECAUSE WE BEAR YOUR NAME

**Lord Jesus, we belong to You,
You live in us, we live in You;
we live and work for You –
because we bear Your name.**

**Help us receive each other, Lord,
for You receive the least of us
and come to us in them –
because we bear Your name.**

**Bless those who give us any gift,
because they know that we are Yours;
reward them with Your grace –
because we bear Your name.**

**Let us acknowledge those as friends
who use Your name to right a wrong,
but have not joined us yet –
because we bear Your name.**

**Let nothing that we do or say
offend the weak so that they fall
and lose their faith in You –
because we bear Your name.**

**Keep us from missing out on life;
give hands that help, and single sight,
and feet that walk Your way –
because we bear Your name.**

**You are the salt that cleanses us,
so clean us out, and make us fit
for common life with You –
because we bear Your name.**

Robin Mann

Song No. #5108071

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