**5th Sunday after the Epiphany**

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, 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 who is in heaven.” *Matthew 5:14-16*

**AS WE GATHER**

As the liturgical year tells the story of Jesus’ earthly ministry, with Christmas still fresh in our memory, it may seem too soon to begin talking about the cross, that instrument of death for the rejected Christ. But as the mysterious star drew the Wise Men to the newborn King of the Jews, so a light draws us to the goal of His mission, the glory of salvation found only in the crucified King of the Jews. How strange it must sound to those who have not heard or who do not yet believe when we sing “In the Cross of Christ I Glory.” Only God the Holy Spirit can enlighten a person with the spiritual wisdom of faith. And He does give and strengthen that faith through the preached Word and the Sacraments administered according to Christ’s institution. Today, that faith enlightened by the cross of our Lord produces a life of love and good works in all we say and do.

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting One, pg. 151)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“The People That in Darkness Sat”* (*LSB* 412)

**KYRIE** (*LSB*, pg. 152-153)

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“This Is the Feast”*(*LSB*, pg. 155)

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 156)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 58:3-9a *(bulletin insert)*

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 *(bulletin insert)*

**ALLELUIA and VERSE** (*LSB*, pg. 156)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 5:13-20 *(bulletin insert)*

**HYMN** *“Thy Strong Word”* (*LSB* 578, vs. 1-4)

**SERMON *“The Light of the World”***

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 158)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**OFFERTORY** *“What Shall I Render to the Lord”*(*LSB*, pg. 159)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 160-163)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“O Word of God Incarnate”* (*LSB* 523)

*“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”* (*LSB* 427)

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** *“Thank the Lord”*(*LSB*, pg. 164)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** (*LSB*, pg. 166)

### BENEDICTION (LSB, pg. 166)

**HYMN** *“Thy Strong Word”* (*LSB* 578, vs. 5-6)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**