
ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 2026

8:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Elisabeth's. We are delighted to have you with us today.



This faith community invites all persons to all levels of participation, leadership, and decision-making within the church regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, socioeconomic and marital status. We seek to establish meaningful connections with one another through work and play and worship as we strive to understand God's purpose for us in the church and in the world.

In the Church Year: Epiphany

Epiphany is a Greek word meaning “manifestation, showing forth, revelation.” This feast proclaims our faith that in Jesus, God is revealed to all people — not just to an inner circle or a chosen few, but to all people, in all places, and throughout all time. Christians believe that in the person of Jesus we see who God is, and in the words and actions of Jesus we see God at work in the world. Epiphany marks a series of occasions at which Jesus was revealed to be God’s Son.

The feast of Epiphany and the weeks that follow are a time when we reflect on several “manifestations” of Jesus, as he was recognized as the Messiah (or Christ) by many different people. We hear about Jesus’ baptism in the river Jordan by John the Baptist and the visit of the magi, or wise men, who followed the star to Bethlehem at Jesus’ birth. We share the amazement of the guests at the wedding party at Cana as Jesus performs his first miracle by turning water into fine wine. And at the end of the season we see Jesus’ glory shown to three of his disciples on the mountain as he is transfigured before them in a blaze of light.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week

Susan Whipple – February 12

Entering In

The following thought by a spiritual author, religious, theologian or one of our clergy is intended to reflect something in today’s service. The Practice is intended to offer one practical way of living these reflections.

Jesus says, “You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” If you were to say, there doesn’t seem to be much light in me right now... you might be surprised. In a dark place, even a little bit of light will have a brilliant effect. You are teeming with light. – *Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE*

Practice: Are you experiencing a dark place in your life? Visit that place alone, or perhaps with a spiritual friend and see what little bit of light you might find. Where might that little bit of light be leading you?

The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

The Word of God

Prelude

Please stand as you are able.

The Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Assembly **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

Presider Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins and give us, we beseech thee, the liberty of that abundant life which thou hast manifested to us in thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Assembly **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

The Lessons

The Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9a

A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

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 delight to draw near to God.

“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.

Look, 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.

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?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

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?

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.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 15

Read responsively by whole verse, with the reader leading.

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

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

Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

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

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

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

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

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

They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

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

Please stand as you are able.

The Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Assembly **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, “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.

“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.”

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Adam Spencer

A period of silence follows the sermon, beginning and ending with a chime.

Please stand as you are able.

The Nicene Creed

All

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Book of Common Prayer, Form I

- Intercessor* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord,
saying "Lord, have mercy."
- Intercessor* For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of
God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the
Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in
authority, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For this village of Glencoe, for every city and community, and for
those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the
sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
- Assembly* **Lord, have mercy.**

Intervessor For Sally Graver
Sherry Schellenbach
Aidan Thomson
Isabelle Thomson
Anne Tuohy
Ben Whipple, son of Larry & Susan Whipple
Chuck Southwick & family, friend of Susan & Larry Whipple
Are there others?

Silence

Let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly **Lord, have mercy.**

Intervessor For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly **Lord, have mercy.**

Intervessor For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly **Lord, have mercy.**

Intervessor In the communion of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, Elisabeth and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

Assembly **To thee, O Lord our God.**

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Presider Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

All **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word or deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Assembly **And with thy spirit.**

Please offer one another a sign of God's Peace.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

The Collection

Thank you for your generous giving to the mission and ministry of St. Elisabeth's church. You can leave a donation in the offering plate at the back of the church, or use your phone to scan the QR code to donate online.



The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able.

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

Assembly **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Assembly **It is meet and right so to do.**

Presider It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

All **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Please remain standing or kneel, as you are able.

Presider All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **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, for
ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Prayer of Humble Access

All We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing. Please line up at the altar rail. You may stand or kneel. Please assist the minister to guide the chalice to your lips. Gluten-free host available upon request. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.

Please stand as you are able.

The Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

All Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.
Amen.

The Blessing

Presider The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Coming Up at St. Elisabeth's

Quarterly Giving: The Night Ministry

Last fall, we began a new outreach initiative -- Quarterly Giving. Four times a year, we will be donating our plate offering to an outreach ministry in our area. For the month of February, our donations will go to The Night Ministry in Chicago.

The Night Ministry was established in 1979 when a diverse group of Chicago North Side congregations hired Rev. Tom Behrens to provide outreach in nighttime areas where vulnerable populations, especially homeless youth, gathered. In late 1980, the Outreach and Health Ministry was launched with a used mobile van to provide basic health care in the neighborhoods. In 1992 Open Door Shelter serving homeless youth, ages 14-21, was opened and The Night Ministry has continued to grow. Today a customized Health Outreach Bus operating six nights a week has expanded to include South Side neighborhoods and additional shelters have been opened. From a small group operating out of Tom Behren's trunk the Night Ministry has become an innovative leader in providing support to homeless and vulnerable youth and young adults.

St. Elisabeth's Book Group

The Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, February 10**, at 11:30 am at the home of Susan & Larry Whipple for lunch and to discuss Eudora Welty's short story, "*A Still Moment*," published in 1943. The author, a native of Jackson Mississippi and a Pulitzer Prize winner, transcends regional literature and, to quote The Great Books Foundation, "depicts universal themes, innovative literary techniques and psychological subtlety." Her story can be found in *Great Conversations 5* or on line. Please RSVP to Susan (whippletoo@yahoo.com), if you plan to attend the lunch.

A Quiet Morning of Reflection: From the Mountaintop to the Wilderness

On **Saturday February 14**, St. Augustine's Church at 1140 Wilmette Ave in Wilmette is offering a Quiet Morning Retreat as we move from the season of Epiphany turn towards Lent. The morning will include a reflection, spiritual practices, and a time for sharing, all facilitated by Deborah DeManno, St. Augustine's Spiritual Director in Residence. Doors open at 8:30 for gathering and refreshments with the retreat program time from 9 am-noon. Please register to help us plan using the QR code.



Sunday Forum: The Gospel of Matthew, Part 2

In 2026, our Sunday Gospel readings will largely be taken from the Gospel of Matthew. Join Priest Associate Larry Handwerk for the second in a series of forums on **Sunday, February 15**, after the 10:00 am service, as we continue to explore Matthew's

Gospel and the ways in which its unique perspective might help us understand Jesus differently.

Sunday Supper and Family Worship

Our next Sunday evening worship and potlucks is coming up on **Sunday, February 15**. We will open the church doors at 4:00, and worship begins at 4:30. After that, we will enjoy some great food. Our theme this month is CHOCOLATE. There is a sign up sheet on the board in the hall, as well as a link to the electronic sign up in the E-news. We hope you can attend --it's a fun way to pray and we always have lots of food.

Ash Wednesday

We enter the Lenten season on **Wednesday, February 18**, with a service of Holy Communion with Sermon and the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m.

New Discussion Group for Parents

St. Elisabeth's is starting a discussion group to support the parents of young daughters and sons. "Young" includes anyone from infants through college age. The gatherings will enable the parents of young people to talk with each other and with older parents. In the conversations, parents may talk freely about the good and bad parts of child raising. Parents can ask each other for advice. They can share happiness, or vent about problems. The young parents may also bounce ideas off the older parents. In this case, the older parents are Susan Whipple and Fred Johnston. Susan and Fred (and their spouses) raised children. They are also grandparents. They can share insights from their own experiences. In short, we want the conversations to support the younger mothers and fathers.

The first group session is set for **Sunday February 22** after worship. It will take place in the meeting room upstairs. At the first gathering, Susan and Fred want to see what works--and doesn't work--with the discussion. We want a conversation format that works for the young parents. We want the younger parents to offer suggestions on things like meeting times, locations and other practical considerations.

Please note that our conversations will be confidential. The conversations must remain confidential. If you have questions about the upcoming event, please contact Fred at frederickpjohnston@gmail.com.

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop*

Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Adam Spencer	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Larry Handwerk	<i>Priest Associate</i>
Walter Aldrich	<i>Director of Music</i>
Caryl Medsker	<i>Director of Administration</i>
Abigail Pribble	<i>Director of Children's Formation</i>
Elizabeth Clemmitt	<i>Associate for Spiritual Wellness</i>

2026 Vestry

Polly Baur	Fred Johnston	Kara Superfine
Robert Fischer, <i>Warden</i>	Jamie Kim	Mark Tilton, <i>Treasurer</i>
Hall Healy	Carrie Miller-Mygatt, <i>Warden</i>	John Tuohy, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>

Sunday Schedule



8:00 a.m.	Spoken Eucharist: Rite I
9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist: Rite II
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour, Forum, and Sunday School

Office Hours

Tuesday -Thursday – 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.