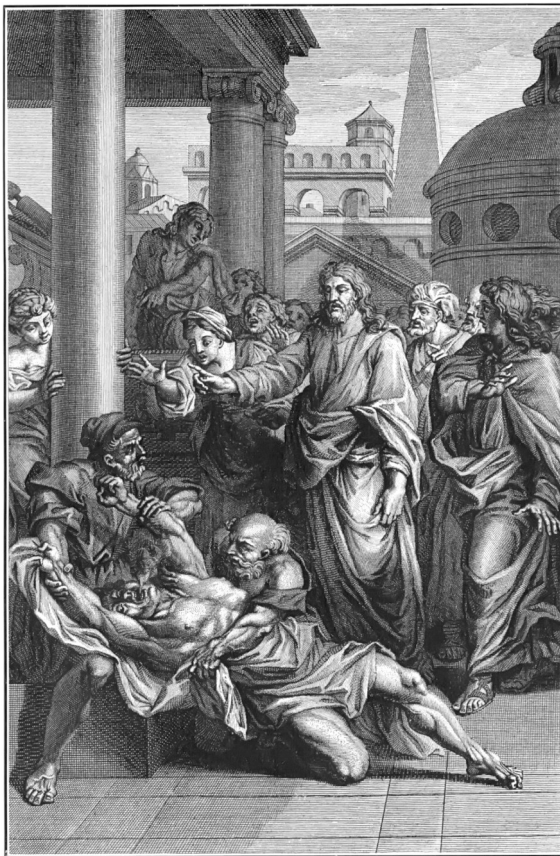


THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 28th, 2024



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
St. Louis, MO
Pastor Seth Georgson
314-914-6457

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Hymn ----- Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

CW 353

1. Praise the one who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
Praise the one who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands With the Father's word of peace.
2. Praise the one who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the one who drove out demons
 With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;
From this well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
3. Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the one who makes us one.

Stand.

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and
penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to
forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Lord, Have Mercy

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O Lord, Our Lord



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;



you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the



King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Deuteronomy 18:15–20

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.

That is exactly what you asked from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, “Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die.”

Then the LORD said to me, “They have done well by saying what they said. I will raise up a

prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him. Anyone who will not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. Any prophet who presumes to speak something in my name that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks something in the name of other gods—that prophet shall die.”

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 1

CW p.64

Refrain

Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Blessed is the man

who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season*
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment*,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous*,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone supposes that he knows something, he does not yet know the way he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, this person has been known by him.

So, concerning the eating of food from idol sacrifices, we know that an idol is not anything real in the world and that there is no God but one. Indeed, even if there are so-called “gods,” whether in the heavens or on earth (as in fact there are many “gods” and many “lords”), nevertheless for us there is one God—the Father, from whom all

things exist, and we exist for him—and one Lord—Jesus Christ, through whom all things exist, and we exist through him.

However, that knowledge is not in everyone. Instead some, who are still affected by their former habit with the idol, eat the food as something sacrificed to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

Food will not bring us closer to God. We do not lack anything if we do not eat, nor are we better off if we do. And be careful that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone sees you, a per-

son who has knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of this man, weak as he is, be emboldened to eat food from an idol sacrifice? You see, the weak person is being destroyed by your knowledge—the brother for whose sake

Christ died! And when you sin in this way against your brothers and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I do not cause my brother to sin.

Verse of the Day

Luke 4:18

Tune: CW 89

C: The Lord's own Spir - it is on me, My mouth pro -
 claims the King's de - cree: The poor are bless'd, the
 pris - 'ners free, And all the blind the light now see.

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Stand.

Gospel ----- Mark 1:21-28

Then they went into Capernaum. On the next Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. They were amazed at his teaching, because he was teaching them as one who has authority and not as the experts in the law. Just then there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue. It cried out, "What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, "Be quiet! Come out of him!"

The unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions, and after crying out with a loud voice, it came out of him. Everyone was so amazed that they began to discuss this with each other. They said, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits, and they obey him!" News about him spread quickly through all the region of Galilee.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- Rise, Shine, You People

CW 556

1. Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.
2. See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.
3. Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus' glory.
4. Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
His new creation.

Sermon ----- Mark 1:21-28

Jesus Speaks with the Power of God

Stand.



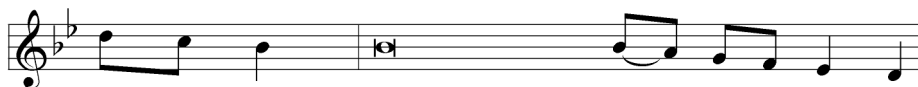
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



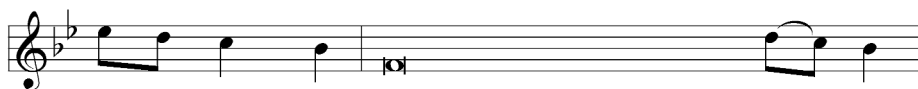
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



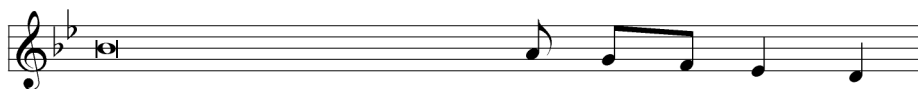
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph - ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



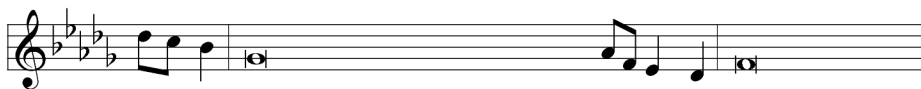
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,



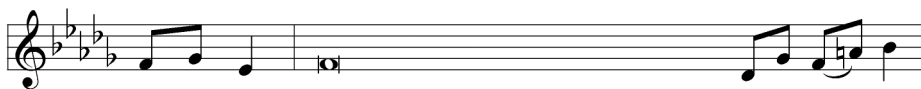
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir-gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be-liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Be seated.

Offering

*Online giving option:
mluther.org/offerings*



*Offerings support the spread
of the Gospel here and around the world.*

Anthem ----- What Is This Bread?

Choir

What is this bread?
Christ's body risen from the dead:
 This bread we break,
 This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine?
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
 The cup of grace
 Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see—the Lord is King.

So who am I,
That I should live and He should die
 Under the rod?
 My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.

Yet is God here?
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
 In mouth and soul
 He makes us whole—

Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.

Is this for me?
I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe
That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

Installation of Officers

Stand.

Prayer of the Church

The minister offers the petitions and the congregation responds with “hear our prayer.”

M: O Holy Trinity, You are God of gods and Lord of lords. Truly, there is no God but You alone. From You and from Your Son, Jesus Christ, are all things. Reveal the saving knowledge of Christ’s truth to us and all the world, that loving You and one another, together we may be known by God. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O Lord, our God, whose voice was heard at Sinai and whose authority was made manifest in Christ, the Prophet greater than Moses, send faithful preachers into Your harvest who will be diligent to listen to Your Word and speak it faithfully in Your name. Preserve us from false prophets who would lead us away from Your truth, and give us ears to hear gladly the saving words of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly Father, guard our families and homes, and build them up in love. Support parents in their task of instructing their children, strengthen those whose faith is weak, and make us bold to forego convenience and security to attest the truths of our most holy faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son cast out unclean spirits and taught with authority. He is the Great Physician of body and soul. Have mercy on those who are sick, distressed, in danger or facing any need [*especially* _____]. Sustain them with patience, trusting in Your merciful care, and graciously relieve them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Dear Lord, look with favor on all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and renewal of life, and so receive a foretaste of the feast to come. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord of hope, guard and keep all who face the temptations of the devil, the world and our sinful flesh, and preserve the faith of those troubled by doubts. Through the daily remembrance of our Baptism, enable us to win the victory over all that threatens our faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C: **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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



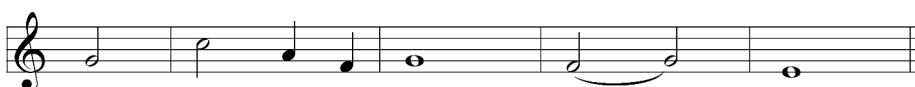
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only members would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymn:

Hymn ----- Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

CW 377

1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done, How his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!
2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.
Yet deep and deeper still I fell; Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.
3. My own good works availed me naught, No merit they attaining;
My will against God's judgment fought, No hope for me remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair Left naught but death to be my share
And hell to be my sentence.
4. But God beheld my wretched state Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of his mercies great, He planned my soul's salvation.
A Father's heart he turned to me, Sought my redemption fervently;
He gave his dearest treasure.
5. He spoke to his beloved Son: "Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown, And bring mankind salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with you forever."
6. The Son obeyed his Father's will, Was born of virgin mother,
And, God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; A servant's form like mine he bore
To lead the devil captive.

7. To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me-I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine, And evermore you shall be mine;
The foe shall not divide us.
8. "The foe shall shed my precious blood, Me of my life bereaving.
All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing.
Life shall from death the vict'ry win; My innocence shall bear your sin,
And you are blest forever.
9. "Now to my Father I depart, The Holy Spirit sending
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart, My help to you extending.
He will a source of comfort be, Teach you to know and follow me,
And in all truth will guide you.
10. "What I on earth have lived and taught Be all your life and teaching;
So shall my kingdom's work be wrought And honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one's man-made laws
Should e'er destroy the gospel's cause.
This final word I leave you."

THANKSGIVING

Stand.

Thank the Lord



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.

He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

Hymn ----- Seek Where You May to Find a Way

CW 395

1. Seek where you may To find a way That leads to your salvation.
My heart is stilled; On Christ I build-He is the one foundation.
His Word is sure; His works endure. He will o'erthrow My ev'ry foe;
Through him I more than conquer.
2. Seek whom you may To be your stay; None can redeem his brother.
All helpers failed; This man prevailed, The God-Man, and none other.
The Servant-Lord Our life restored. We're justified, For he has died,
The guiltless for the guilty.
3. Seek him alone, Who did atone, Who did your souls deliver;
Oh, seek him first, All you who thirst For grace that fails you never.
In ev'ry need Seek him indeed; To ev'ry heart He will impart
His blessings without measure.
4. My heart's delight, My crown most bright, Jesus, you are forever.
Not wealth or pride Or aught beside Our bond of love shall sever.
You are my Lord; Your precious Word Shall be my guide What e'er betide.
Oh, teach me, Lord, to trust you!

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