

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 4th, 2024



MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Louis, MO

Pastor Seth Georgson

314-914-6457

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Hymn ----- Thy Strong Word

CW 280

1. Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank thee While thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!
2. Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of thy salvation, Breathed thine own life-giving breath.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!
3. Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hope confess.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!
4. From the cross thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth All thy bright redeeming light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!
5. Give us lips to sing thy glory, Tongues thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats to shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak thy holy name.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! May the light which thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!
6. God the Father, light-creator, To thee laud and honor be.  
To thee, Light from Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

*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



*Prayer of the Day*

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; 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** ----- **Job 7:1-7**

Isn't man's time on earth like being compelled to serve in the army?  
Aren't his days like those of a hired man?  
Like a slave, he longs for shade,  
or like a day laborer, he waits for his pay.  
In the same way, I have been allotted months of futility,  
and nights of agony have been assigned to me.

When I lie down, I think, "How long before I get up?"  
But the night drags on,  
and I am filled with restlessness until dawn.  
My flesh is clothed with maggots and caked with dirt.  
My skin scabs over and then oozes again.

My days pass by more swiftly than the shuttle of a  
weaver's loom.  
They come to an end without hope.

Remember that my life is just a breath.  
My eyes will never again see good fortune.

**Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 103**

CW p.105

*Refrain*

**I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.**

Praise the LORD, O my soul,\*  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

He forgives all your sins\*  
and heals all your diseases;

he redeems your life from the grave\*  
and crowns you with love and compassion.

*Refrain*

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,\*  
slow to anger, abounding in love.

He does not treat us as our sins deserve\*  
or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,\*  
so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,\*  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

*Refrain*

As a father has compassion on his children,\*  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,\*  
he remembers that we are dust.

Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field,\*  
the wind blows over it and it is gone.

But the LORD'S love is with those who fear him\*  
from everlasting to everlasting.

**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 9:16-23**

You see, if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast about, because an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I do this as a volunteer, I receive compensation. But if not, I have been entrusted with a responsibility as a steward. What then is my compensation? To present the gospel of Christ free of charge when I preach it, instead of making use of the right I have when I preach the gospel.

In fact, although I am free from all, I enslaved myself to all so that I might gain many more. To the Jews, I became like a Jew so that I might gain Jews. To those who are under the law, I

became like a person under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might gain those who are under the law. To those who are without the law, I became like a person without the law (though I am not without God's law but am within the law of Christ) so that I might gain those who are without the law. To the weak, I became weak so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people so that I may save at least some. And I do everything for the sake of the gospel so that I may share in it along with others.



Verse of the Day

John 8:12

Tune: CW 89

C: In this dark world I am the light, The murk and  
gloom I put to flight. So fear no dan - ger,  
fear no strife, In me you have the light of life.

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*Stand.*

**Gospel ----- Mark 1:29-39**

They left the synagogue and went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed, sick with a fever. Without delay they told Jesus about her. He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, when the sun had set, the people kept bringing to him all who were sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door. He healed many people who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. But he did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who he was.

Jesus got up early in the morning, while it was still dark, and went out. He withdrew to a solitary place and was praying there. Simon and his companions searched for him, and, when they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is looking for you!"

He told them, "Let's go somewhere else, to the neighboring villages, so that I can preach there too. In fact, that is why I have come." Then he went throughout the whole region of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated.*

**Hymn of the Day ----- Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

CW 93

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression, And rule in equity.
2. He comes with rescue speedy To those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy And bid the weak be strong,  
To give them songs for sighing, Their darkness turn to light  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, Are precious in his sight.
3. Kings shall bow down before him And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore him; His praise all people sing.  
To him shall prayer unceasing And daily vows ascend,  
His kingdom still increasing, A kingdom without end.
4. O'er ev'ry foe victorious, He on his throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious, All blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever—That name to us is Love.

**Sermon ----- Mark 1:29-39**

*Jesus Says No for the Sake of the Gospel*

*Stand.*



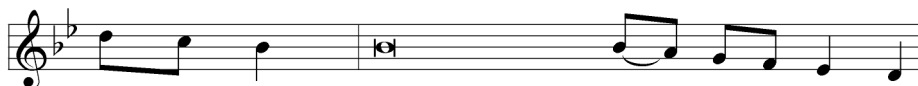
**C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,**



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



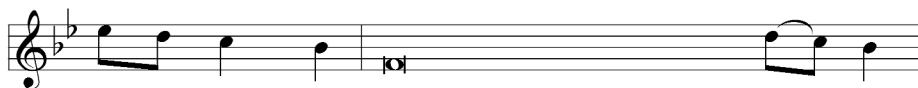
**cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of**



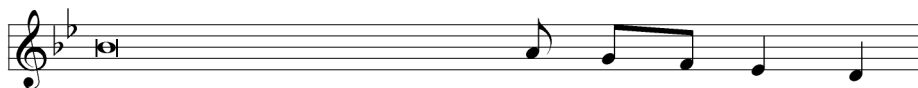
**heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.**



**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:**



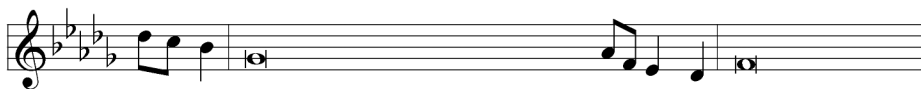
**Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,**



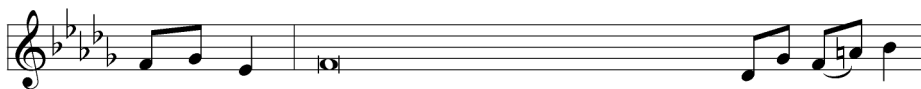
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



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*

*Stand.*

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

*Prayer of the Church*

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

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We give thanks to You, dear Father, for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh to preach the Gospel and cast out the works of Satan and the corruption of sin, which we could not overcome. By Your Word, rescue us from every evil of body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord of the Church, give joy to Your servants on whom You have laid the necessity to preach the Gospel, that many would be saved in every nation and that together we may share in the blessings of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly Father, give to all Christian homes the endurance that comes from Your Holy Spirit, that husbands and wives, parents and children may be disciplined and self-controlled in their duties, run their course in this life, and continue to the end in the holy Christian faith, ready to receive the imperishable wreath of eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty God, Creator of the world and its foundations, You hold sway over the powers of nature and the rulers of the earth. Graciously preserve our land, its produce and industry, and our leaders together with our people. Do not disregard us for our sins, but renew us, that our lives may be peaceful and our country governed according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O Lord, Your Son is the Great Physician of body and soul, at whose hand demon, disease and every ill must turn away. We bring before You those in any need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Holy Father, where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. Bring us in faith to Your Holy Sacrament, that the blood of Christ, which atoned for our sins, may make us whole, strengthen us against every spiritual attack of the devil, turn us in love toward our neighbor, and preserve us in body and soul to life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Sanctus*



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 confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.*

*During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymn:*

**Hymn ----- Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness**

CW 311

1. Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; Leave behind all gloom and sadness.  
 Come into the daylight's splendor; There with joy your praises render  
 Unto him whose grace unbounded Has this wondrous supper founded.  
 Though he reigns above most holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

2. Hasten as a bride to meet him, And with loving rev'ence greet him,  
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.  
Open wide the gates before him, Saying, as you there adore him:  
Grant, Lord, that I now receive you, That I nevermore will leave you.
3. He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure,  
But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.  
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,  
Naught would buy the gifts here offered:  
Christ's true body, for you riven, And his blood, for you once given.
4. Now I kneel before you lowly, Filled with joy most deep and holy,  
As with trembling awe and wonder On your mighty work I ponder,  
How by mystery surrounded, Depths that no one ever sounded.  
None may dare to pierce unbidden Secrets that with you are hidden.
5. Human reason, though it ponders, Cannot fathom these great wonders,  
That Christ's body must be boundless  
Since the souls it feeds are countless,  
And that he his blood is giving With the wine we are receiving.  
These great mysteries unsounded Are by God alone expounded.
6. Lord, by love and mercy driven, You have left your throne in heaven  
On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,  
To forgo all joy and gladness And to shed your blood in sadness.  
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.
7. Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor, Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,  
Jesus, Joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring-  
At your feet I cry, my Maker: Let me be a fit partaker  
Of this blessed food from heaven For our good, your glory, given.

8. Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you, Let me gladly here obey you.  
 By your love I am invited; Be your love with love requited.  
 By this supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
 Through the gift of grace you give me  
 As your guest in heav'n receive me.

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.



*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.



*Be seated.*

**Hymn ----- Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

CW 332

1. Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.  
 Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
 In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
 Go, my children, with my blessing-You are my own.

2. Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story;  
Here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
3. Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you; Here his tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.
4. I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, my children; I will keep you And give you peace.

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