

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 2nd, 2025



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

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Hymn ----- **Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

CW 255

1. Open now thy gates of beauty; Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!
2. Gracious God, I come before thee; Come thou also unto me.
Where we find thee and adore thee, There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou; Let it be thy temple now!
3. Here thy praise is gladly chanted; Here thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.
4. Thou my faith increase and quicken; Let me keep thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken; May thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in all strife.
5. Speak, O God, and I will hear thee; Let thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near thee While thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

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.

O God of power and might, you know that we live in the midst of many great dangers, and in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Give us strength and protection to support us in all peril, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Exodus 14:21-31

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night long the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned the sea into dry land. The waters were divided. The Israelites went into the middle of the sea on dry ground. The waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all of Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his charioteers went after them into the middle of the sea. During the last watch of the night, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian forces from the pillar of fire and cloud. Then he confused the Egyptian forces. He jammed their chariot wheels, and

they had difficulty driving them. The Egyptians said, "We must flee from Israel, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!"

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, and the waters will come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their charioteers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal place. While the Egyptians were fleeing from it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the middle of the sea. The waters came back and covered the chariots and the charioteers, the entire

army of Pharaoh that went into the sea after the Israelites. Not even one of them survived.

But the Israelites went through the middle of the sea on dry land, and the waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left. On that day the LORD saved Israel from the hand of

the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the mighty hand which the LORD put into action against the Egyptians, and the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in Moses, his servant.

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 84

CW p.96

Refrain

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,*

O LORD Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints,*

for the courts of the LORD.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;*

they are ever praising you.

Refrain

Better is one day in your courts*

than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God*

than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

O LORD Almighty,*

blessed are they who trust in you.

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 ----- Romans 13:8–10

Do not owe anyone anything except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments—do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do

not covet (and if there is any other commandment)—are summed up in this statement: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor, so love is the fulfillment of the law.

Verse of the Day

Luke 4:18

M: Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he anointed me to preach good news to the poor. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand.

Gospel ----- Matthew 8:23–27

When he got into a boat, his disciples followed him. Suddenly a terrible storm came up on the sea, so that their boat was covered by the waves. But Jesus was sleeping. They went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to die!”

He said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up, rebuked the wind and the sea, and there was a complete calm.

The men were amazed, saying, “What kind of a man is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- I Know My Faith Is Founded

CW 403

1. I know my faith is founded On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;
And this my faith confessing, Unmoved I stand upon his Word.
Man's reason cannot fathom The truth of God profound;
Who trusts in worldly wisdom Relies on shifting ground.
God's Word is all-sufficient, It makes divinely sure,
And, trusting in its wisdom, My faith shall rest secure.
2. Increase my faith, dear Savior, For Satan seeks by night and day
To rob me of this treasure And take my hope of bliss away.
But, Lord, with you beside me I shall be undismayed;
And led by your good Spirit, I shall be unafraid.
Abide with me, O Savior, A firmer faith bestow.
Then I shall bid defiance To ev'ry evil foe.
3. In faith, Lord, let me serve you; Though persecution, grief, and pain
Should seek to overwhelm me, Let me a steadfast trust retain.
And then at my departure, Lord, take me home to you,
And let me there inherit All you have promised me.
In life and death, Lord, keep me Until your heav'n I gain,
Where I by your great mercy The end of faith attain.

Sermon ----- Matthew 8:23-27

Put Away Fear by Fearing Him

Stand.

We Praise You, O God

Te Deum



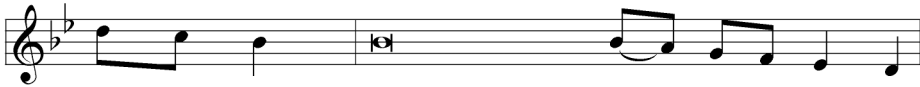
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



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



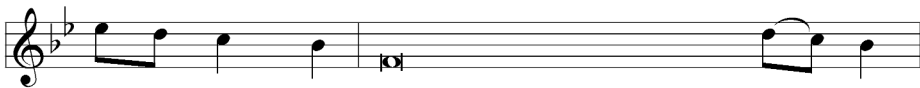
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



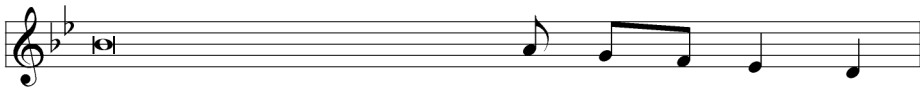
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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:



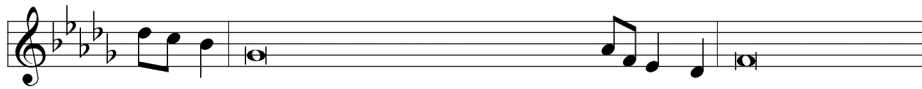
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,



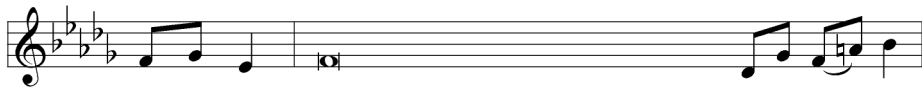
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



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.

Prayer of the Church

The minister offers the petitions and the congregation responds with the text in bold.

Online giving option:
mluther.org/offerings



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

M: We cry out to you, Lord, in our troubles, for you alone can bring us out of our distress.

Lord, we give thanks to you for your unfailing love,
your wonderful deeds for mankind.

Psalm 107:8

Show your power and might in all things, and in your time still all turmoil in our lives.

Lord, we give thanks to you for your unfailing love,
your wonderful deeds for mankind.

Have pity on us and help us, even though our faith is small and our hearts are fearful. Increase our faith in you and drive out our fears.

Lord, we give thanks to you for your unfailing love,
your wonderful deeds for mankind.

Increase our love for you, that we reflect your love in our service to our neighbors.

Lord, we give thanks to you for your unfailing love,
your wonderful deeds for mankind.

Your Son displayed his power and might over all things by stilling a storm with a word, to the amazement of his disciples. Amaze us also with his power and love, that we put our trust in him.

Lord, we give thanks to you for your unfailing love,
your wonderful deeds for mankind.

When your people are humbled by afflictions, turn their hearts to you, for you alone have the power to help. [*We pray especially for...*] Let your people marvel at your power and ponder your loving deeds.

Lord, we give thanks to you for your unfailing love,
your wonderful deeds for mankind.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Heavenly Father, you created all things, and you rule over all your creation by your mighty power. Defend us, protect us and bless us until we are safe in your heavenly kingdom; through your Son, 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.**



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 hymns:

Hymn ----- Jesus Priceless Treasure

CW 349

1. Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me.
Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide thee, Naught I ask beside thee.
2. In thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, Ev'ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, tho' sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.
3. Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee; Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore him, Silent bow before him.
4. Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure; Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss Or shame or cross
Shall not from my Savior move me Since he deigns to love me.
5. Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear, Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Hymn ----- If God Himself Be for Me

CW 419

1. If God himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master, Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster Can drive me from his love?
2. This I believe, yea rather, Of this I make my boast,
That God is my dear Father, My friend who loves me most,
And that, whate'er betide me, My Savior is at hand
Through stormy seas to guide me And bring me safe to land.
3. I build on this foundation: That Jesus and his blood
Alone are my salvation, My true, eternal good.
Without him all that pleases Is valueless on earth;
The gifts I have from Jesus Alone have priceless worth.
4. He canceled my offenses, Delivered me from death;
He is the Lord who cleanses My soul from sin through faith.
In him I can be cheerful, Courageous on my way;
In him I am not fearful Of God's great Judgment Day.
5. No sin can now condemn me Or set my hope aside.
Now hell no more can claim me; Its fury I deride.
No sentence now reproves me; No guilt destroys my peace,
For Christ, my Savior, loves me And shields me with his grace.
6. No danger, thirst, or hunger, No pain or poverty,
No earthly tyrant's anger Shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder, You are my Savior true;
No fire or sword or thunder Shall sever me from you.

7. My heart for joy is springing And can no more be sad,
 'Tis full of joy and singing, Sees only sunshine glad.
 The sun that cheers my spirit Is Jesus Christ, my King;
 The heav'n I shall inherit Makes me rejoice and sing.

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 ----- 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.

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