

# SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

February 16th, 2025



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MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
St. Louis, MO  
Pastor Seth Georgson  
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## SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Hymn ----- Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus**

CW 452

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,  
Flee the world which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.  
Ever in his footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above,  
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, abide with me. Savior, lead; I follow thee.
2. Let us suffer here with Jesus, To his image e'er conform;  
Heaven's glory soon will please us, Sunshine follow on the storm.  
Though we sow in tears of sorrow, We shall reap in heav'nly joy,  
And the fears that now annoy Shall be laughter on the morrow.  
Christ, I suffer here with thee; There, oh, share thy joy with me.
3. Let us also die with Jesus. His death from the second death,  
From our soul's destruction, frees us, Quickens us with life's glad breath.  
Let us mortify, while living, Flesh and blood and die to sin,  
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here I die to thee, There to live eternally.
4. Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since he's risen from the dead,  
Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, thou art now our head.  
We are truly thine own members; Where thou livest, there live we.  
Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.  
Jesus, here I live to thee, Also there eternally.

*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.



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.



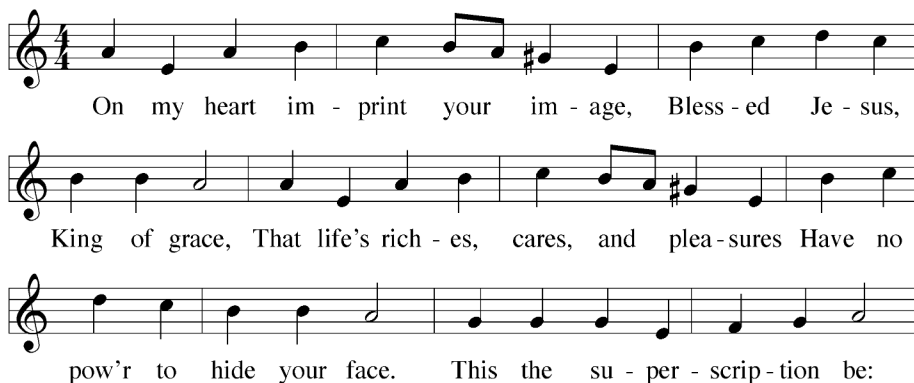
M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



M: In our distress we called upon the Lord. From his temple he heard our voice.  
(Ps 18:6)

*On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

*CW 319*





### *Prayer of the Day*

M: Let us pray.

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of your people that we, who justly suffer the consequence of our sin, may be mercifully delivered by your goodness to the glory of your name; 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 ----- Jeremiah 9:23-24

This is what the LORD says.  
The wise man should not boast in his wisdom.  
The strong man should not boast in his strength,  
nor the rich man in his riches.  
Instead, let those who boast boast about this:

that they have understanding, and that they know  
me.  
They know that I am the LORD,  
who shows mercy, justice, and righteousness on  
earth,  
for I delight in these things, declares the LORD.

**Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 46**

CW p.84

*Refrain*

**The mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

God is our refuge and strength,\*  
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way\*  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam\*  
and the mountains quake with their surging.

*Refrain*

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,\*  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;\*  
God will help her at break of day.

“Be still, and know that I am God;\*  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”

**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 9:24–10:5

Do you not know that when runners compete in the stadium, they all run, but only one receives the prize? Run like that—to win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable victor’s wreath, but we do it for an imperishable one. That is why there is nothing aimless about the way I run. There is no pummeling of the air in the way I box. Instead I hit my body hard and make it my slave so that, after preaching to others, I myself will not be rejected.

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness.

### *Verse of the Day*

*Ephesians 2:8,9*

M: Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

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 20:1–16**

“Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. To these he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.’ So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, ‘Why have you stood here all day unemployed?’

“They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and

pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.’

“When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: ‘Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

“But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*Be seated.*



**Hymn of the Day ----- Salvation unto Us Has Come**

CW 390

1.    Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor.  
      Good works cannot avert our doom; They help and save us never.  
      Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;  
      He is the one Redeemer.
2.    What God does in his law demand And none to him can render,  
      Brings wrath and woe on ev'ry hand For man, the vile offender.  
      Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the law requires,  
      And lost is our condition.
3.    It is a false, misleading dream That God his law has given  
      That sinners can themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.  
      The law is but a mirror bright To bring the inbred sin to light  
      That lurks within our nature.
4.    Yet as the law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,  
      Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.  
      He has for us the law obeyed And thus the Father's vengeance stayed  
      Which over us impended.
5.    Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,  
      Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.  
      Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my life indeed,  
      For you have paid my ransom.
6.    All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
      The God who saved us by his grace-All glory to his merit!  
      O Triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed your saving love;  
      Your blessed name be hallowed!

**Sermon ----- Matthew 20:1-16**

*Grateful for Time Spent Working in God's Vineyard*

*Stand.*

*Nicene Creed*

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Be seated.*

*Offering*

*Stand.*

*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.

*Online giving option:*

*[mluther.org/offerings](http://mluther.org/offerings)*



*Offerings support the spread*

*of the Gospel here and around the world.*

- M: Master of the vineyard, look kindly on Your Church as she gathers around Word and Sacrament, that she would faithfully listen to Jesus and bear spiritual fruit a hundredfold. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Master of the vineyard, send forth laborers into Your harvest, and sustain those whom You have sent. Keep Your whole Church mindful at all times of the gracious favor You have bestowed on us in the Beloved, that we may serve You with faithful labor in our vocations, especially as hearers of Your saving Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Master of the vineyard, You call us by grace to work and live in Your kingdom not as slaves, but as sons of the Most High and brothers of Christ. Work graciously through the teaching and example of fathers and mothers to preserve the faith of children, and help them to grow in Christ until life's end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Master of the vineyard, You have established all authorities on the earth. Bless all public servants, especially Donald Trump, our president, and Michael Kehoe, our governor, that they would fulfill their offices with wisdom and compassion. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- M: Master of the vineyard, graciously regard all for whom we pray [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Give them contentment to take what You send them and go their way confident that whatever is right, You will give them, since You work all things together for the good of those called according to Your purpose. By the gracious gift of Christ, relieve them of their sorrows. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- M: Master of the vineyard, bless all who eat and drink the body and blood of Christ, that through their participation in the Sacrament of the Altar, they would receive forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

M: Master of the vineyard, You have called us by grace into the labor of Your vineyard. Give us strength to labor well, sanctified by Your Word and Spirit and mindful of the coming evening of this world, when You will return to reward those who serve in Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray. Grant that we would look to You for every blessing and to Your Son for our salvation. Deliver us from all adversity, and preserve us in faith until the last. To You alone be 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.

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Sanctus*



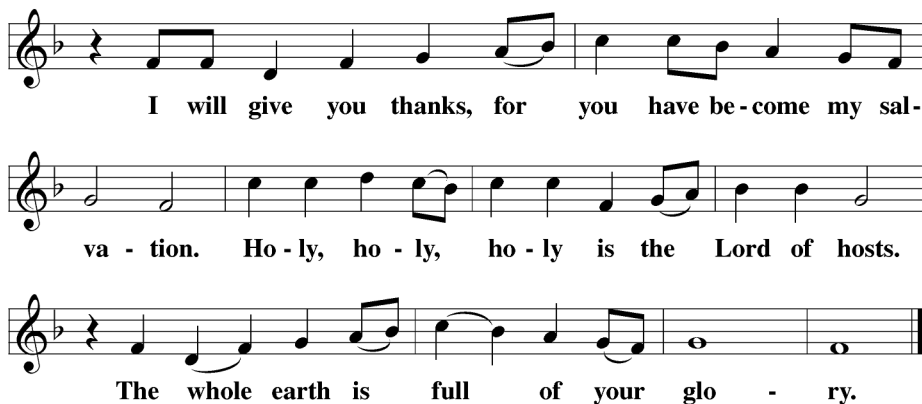
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



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 ----- I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

CW 310

*Refrain:*

Lord, may your body and your blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!

1. I come, O Savior, to your table, For weak and weary is my soul;  
O Jesus, you alone are able To satisfy and make me whole. *Refrain*
2. Oh, grant that I in manner worthy May now trust solely in your Word,  
And, conscious of the sins before me, Look only unto you, O Lord.  
*Refrain*
3. Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet you your lamb will banish never, Nor will your faithfulness depart.  
*Refrain*
4. Oh, let me loathe all sin forever As death and poison to my soul,  
That I through willful sinning never May see your judgment take its toll!  
*Refrain*
5. Your heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to you in faith are turning; So let me, too, come trustingly.  
*Refrain*
6. Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed.  
Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now your guest.  
*Refrain*
7. You here will find a heart most lowly That feels unworthy in your sight,  
That duly weeps o'er sin, yet solely Your merit pleads, as it is right.  
*Refrain*
8. By faith I call your holy table The testament of your deep love,  
For by your gift I now am able To know the heart of God above. *Refrain*



9. What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace.  
*Refrain*
10. This feast is manna, wealth abounding  
Unto the poor, to weak ones pow'r,  
To angels joy, to hell confounding, And life for me in death's dark hour.  
*Refrain*
11. Your body, giv'n for me, O Savior,  
Your blood, which you for me have shed-  
These are my life and strength forever; By them my hungry soul is fed.  
*Refrain*
12. With you, Lord, I am now united; I live in you and you in me.  
No sorrow fills my soul; delighted, It finds its peace on Calvary. *Refrain*
13. Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is near, who justifies.  
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. *Refrain*
14. Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer,  
For he who is of death the master With help and strength is always near.  
*Refrain*
15. My heart has now become your dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.  
With angels I, your praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. *Refrain*

# 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-joice 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.



### *Be seated.*

## **Hymn ----- Lord of the Living Harvest**

CW 559

1. Lord of the living harvest That ripens o'er the plain,  
Where angels soon will gather Their sheaves of golden grain,  
Accept our hands to labor, Our hearts to trust and love,  
And be with us to hasten Your kingdom from above.
2. As lab'ers in your vineyard, Lord, give us work to do,  
Content to bear the burden Of weary days for you,  
To ask no other wages When you will call us home  
Than to have shared the labor That makes your kingdom come.
3. Be with us, God the Father; Be with us, God the Son  
And God the Holy Spirit, Most blessed Three in One.  
Make us your faithful servants You rightly to adore,  
And fill us with your blessing Both now and evermore.

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