

SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

February 23rd, 2025



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

## SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Hymn ----- Dearest Jesus, We Are Here**

CW 295

1. Dearest Jesus, we are here, Gladly your command obeying;  
With this child we now draw near In response to your own saying  
That to you it shall be given As a child and heir of heaven.
2. Lord, your Word is clear and plain, And we will obey it duly:  
“He who is not born again, Heart and life renewing truly,  
Born of water and the Spirit, Can my kingdom not inherit.”
3. Therefore we have come to you, In our arms this infant bearing.  
Here we shall forgiveness view. May this child, your mercy sharing,  
In your arms be shielded ever, Yours on earth and yours forever.
4. Gracious Head, your member own; Shepherd, take your lamb and feed it;  
Prince of Peace, make here your throne; Way of Life, to heaven lead it.  
Precious Vine, let nothing sever From your side this branch forever.
5. Now into your heart we pour Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.  
Our petitions heav’nward soar; May our warm desires be heeded!  
Write the name we now have given; Write it in the book of heaven!

*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:** Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

**C:** **Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

**M:** As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

**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.**

*The Rite of Baptism continues at the font. (CW p. 13)*

M: The Lord arises for our help, and redeems us for his mercies' sake. (Ps 44:26)

*On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

CW 319

On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus,  
King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Have no  
pow'r to hide your face. This the su - per - scrip - tion be:  
Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my  
hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble staff. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the piece concludes with a double bar line.

*Prayer of the Day*

M: Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you, mercifully grant that  
by your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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.

The musical notation shows a single treble staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are A, C, and A, with a slur over the first two notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

*Be seated.*

## THE WORD

### First Lesson ----- Isaiah 55:10-13

Just as the rain and the snow come down from the  
sky  
and do not return there  
unless they first water the earth, make it give  
birth, and cause it to sprout,  
so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the  
eater,  
in the same way my word that goes out from my  
mouth  
will not return to me empty.  
Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,  
and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent  
it.

Yes, you will go out with joy,  
and in peace you will be carried along.  
The mountains and the hills will break out in  
shouts of joy before you,  
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.  
Instead of thorns, a fir tree will grow up.  
Instead of briers, a myrtle tree will grow up.  
This will make a name for the LORD.  
It will serve as an everlasting sign that will not be  
cut off.

### 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 ----- 2 Corinthians 11:19–12:9**

You gladly put up with fools, since you are just so wise! In fact, you put up with it if anyone makes you his slave, robs you, takes advantage of you, looks down on you, or strikes you in the face! I am ashamed to say that we were too weak for that!

However bold anyone might be (I am speaking in a foolish way), I am going to be bold too. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's seed? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I am speaking in a crazy way.) I am even more. I've done more hard work, been in prisons more often, been whipped far more, and I've been close to death many times. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. One time I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day on the open sea. I have often been on journeys, in danger from rivers, in danger from robbers, in danger from my own people, in danger from Gentiles, in

danger in the city, in danger in the wilderness, in danger on the sea, in danger among false brothers. I have worked hard and struggled. I've spent many sleepless nights. I've been hungry and thirsty. I've gone without food many times. I've been cold and lacked clothing.

Besides those external matters, there is the daily pressure on me of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my being weak? Who falls into sin without my being distressed?

If it is necessary that I boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is eternally blessed, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas kept the city of Damascus on alert to arrest me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped from his hands.

I must go on boasting, although there is nothing to be gained. So I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ

who, fourteen years ago, was carried up to the third heaven (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know—God knows). And I know that such a man (whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know—God knows) was carried up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words that a man cannot possibly speak. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. Indeed, if I wanted to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from doing this, so that no one will think

more highly of me than what he sees in me or hears from me.

Therefore, to keep me from becoming arrogant due to the extraordinary nature of these revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. And he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me.

*Verse of the Day*

*John 6:68*

M: Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life.

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 ----- Luke 8:4-15

As a large crowd was gathering and people from one town after another were making their way to him, he spoke using a parable. “A sower went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell along the path. It was trampled, and the birds of the sky devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground. As soon as it grew, it withered away, because it had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up with it and choked it. Other seed fell into good soil. It grew and produced fruit—one hundred times as much as was sown.” As he said these things, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear!”

His disciples asked him, “What does this parable mean?”

He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest I speak in parables so that ‘even though they

see, they may not see, and even though they hear, they may not understand.’ This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear it, but then the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts to keep them from believing and being saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root. So they believe for a while, but then fall away in a time of testing. The seeds that fell into the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but as they go on their way they are choked by the worries, riches, and pleasures of life, so they do not mature. And the seeds in the good ground are the ones who hear the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it tightly, and produce fruit as they patiently endure.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*Be seated.*

## Hymn of the Day ----- Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening

CW 283

1. Speak, O Savior; I am list'ning, As a servant to his lord.  
Let me show respect and honor To your holy, precious Word,  
That each day, my whole life through, I may serve and follow you.  
Let your Word e'er be my pleasure  
And my heart's most precious treasure.



2. Oh, what blessing to be near you And to listen to your voice!  
Let me ever love and fear you; Let your Word still be my choice.  
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at your Word,  
But to all who feel sin's burden You give peace and words of pardon.
3. Lord, your words are waters living Where I quench my thirsty needs.  
Lord, your words are bread life-giving; On your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unfailing.
4. As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let your words in me take root.  
May your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

**Sermon ----- Luke 8:4–15**

*Whoever Has Ears to Hear, Let Him Hear*

*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.**”*

Online giving option:  
[mluther.org/offerings](http://mluther.org/offerings)



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

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

M: Lord of the harvest, we give thanks for all of Your tender mercies. Implant in us Your Holy Word, that in good and honest hearts we may keep Him always. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: God of glory, enrich Your ministers with the very love of Christ and minister to them, that with gladness they may serve the people of Your Church. Teach them the way of the cross and of self-sacrifice, that they would bear their burden faithfully and at last receive the crown of life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O Lord, the seed of Your Word has found good soil among the hearts of each generation, from whom You have reaped a plentiful harvest according to Your gracious will. Continue this sanctifying work in our hearts, that we

may bear Your fruit in all that we think, say and do. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Merciful God, increase the faith of Your Church in the Word, which comes from Your mouth. By her witness, enrich our land. Give us faithful rulers, increase virtue among us and grant Your Word free course to enliven faith in all places under heaven. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Creator of all, You have seen fit to allow even the faithful to be hindered by the various trials and dangers of life [*including \_\_\_\_\_*]. Help Your suffering servants to join Your blessed apostle Paul and boast in their weaknesses, confident that Your strength will sustain them to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty God, by a word You created the heavens and earth to bear fruit under the cultivation of man. Receive our offerings and the fruit of Your creation in bread and wine, and by Your Word, give us the precious body and blood of Christ for our forgiveness, life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You that through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have sown Your Holy Word among us. Prepare our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may diligently and reverently hear Your Word, keep it in good hearts, and bring forth fruit with patience; and that we may not incline to sin, but subdue it by Your power, and in all persecutions comfort ourselves with Your grace and continual help; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same 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.



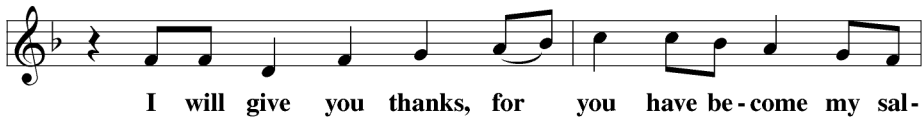
**C:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**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*



*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.



*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 ----- Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast**

CW 324

1.   Almighty God, your Word is cast  
      Like seed into the ground;  
      Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
      And righteous fruits abound.
2.   Let not the foe of Christ and man  
      This holy seed remove,  
      But give it root in ev'ry heart  
      To bring forth fruits of love.
3.   Let not the world's deceitful cares  
      The rising plant destroy,  
      But let it yield a hundredfold  
      The fruits of peace and joy.
4.   Whene'er the precious seed is sown,  
      Life-giving grace bestow  
      That all whose souls the truth receive  
      Its saving pow'r may know.

**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'rence 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-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.



### *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 ----- Preach You the Word**

CW 544

1. Preach you the Word and plant it home  
To those who like or like it not,  
The Word that shall endure and stand  
When flow'rs and mortals are forgot.

2. We know how hard, O Lord, the task  
Your servant bids us undertake:  
To preach your Word and never ask  
What prideful profit it may make.
3. The sower sows; his reckless love  
Scatters abroad the goodly seed,  
Intent alone that there may be  
The wholesome loaves that people need.
4. Though some be snatched and some be scorched  
And some be choked and matted flat,  
The sower sows; his heart cries out,  
“Oh, what of that, and what of that?”
5. Preach you the Word and plant it home  
And never faint; the Harvest-Lord  
Who gave the sower seed to sow  
Will watch and tend his planted Word.

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*Cover: “The Parable of the Sower” by Georg Pencz, 1534-35.*

