

SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

February 8th, 2026



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

## SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Hymn ----- Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear**

CW 282

1. Lord, open now my heart to hear,  
And through your Word to me draw near.  
Let me your Word e'er pure retain;  
Let me your child and heir remain.
2. Your Word inspires my heart within;  
Your Word grants healing from my sin.  
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless;  
Your Word brings peace and happiness.
3. To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Shall glory, praise, and honor be  
Now and throughout eternity.

*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.

### CONFSSION 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:

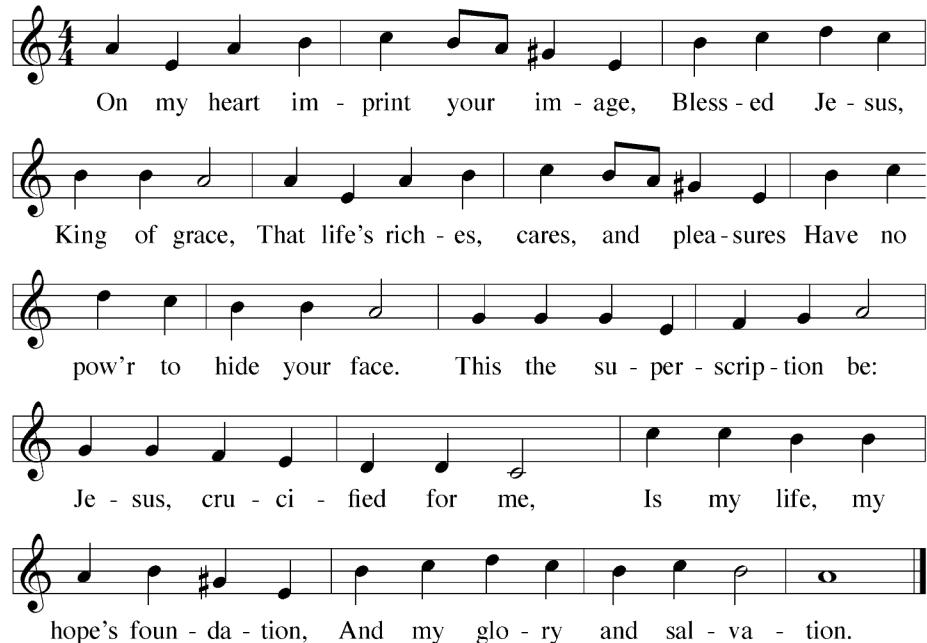


C: A - men.

M: The 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.

*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.



*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 briars, 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.

**Anthem ----- This Is My Word**  
**Choir**

As the snow falls from heaven as it comes in swirling showers from the sky,  
so is my Word.

As the rains bring the water to the earth that is thirsty and dry,  
so is my Word.

And the Word of my mouth, it shall not return empty;  
it will bless the earth wherever it is heard.

This is my Word.

As the rains bring renewal and the tender buds begin to come alive,  
so is my Word.

Giving seed to the sower, and the bread to the hungry 'til they thrive,  
so is my Word.

And the Word of my mouth, it shall not return empty;  
it will bless the earth wherever it is heard.

This is my Word.

O Lord, when I am weary, when I feel the days I'm living are in vain,  
my God, help me be faithful to the Word You have given to proclaim.

Proclaim the Word,

and you will go out in joy and be led forth in peace,  
and the hills will break before you into song.

So be faithful, brave, and true, for I will go before you.

And when your earthly journey here is done,  
I'll say well done!

As the snow falls from heaven and the rain comes in showers from the sky,  
this is my Word.

## 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.

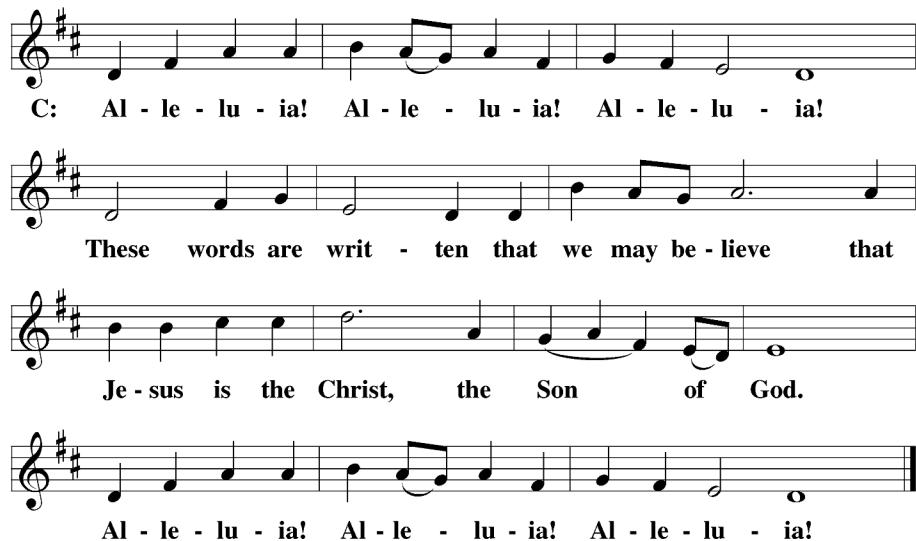
I must go on boasting, although there is nothing to be gained. So I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who, fourteen years ago, was carried up to the third heaven (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know—God knows). And I know that 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!”

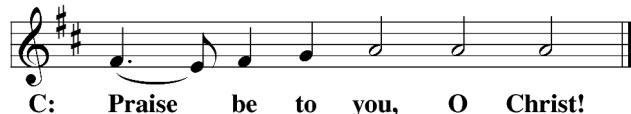
His disciples asked him, “What does this parable mean?”

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:*



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*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.

*Jesus Has Sown in You His Word*

*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.*

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



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

### *Prayer of the Church*

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

M: Almighty God, Your Word accomplishes Your purpose in this world according to Your holy will. Make us to hear it gladly, that springing forth in faith, hope and love, we renew Your fallen creation in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly Father, in Christ You have established Your Church to be a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. We give You thanks for providing shepherds to serve Your flock. Bless their ministry of Word and Sacrament, that Your people would grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Bless our Synod, her congregations and schools, her pastors, teachers, musicians and all her faithful servants. Send laborers into Your harvest and sustain those whom you have sent, that they may be faithful and steadfast in their work. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Caring Father, visit the homes of Your people. Keep them from all harm and danger, and grant that we would dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord of the harvest, grant health and prosperity to all who are in authority, especially Donald Trump, our president; Michael Kehoe, our governor; and all those who serve in our armed forces. Endue them with wisdom so that they may serve to the maintenance of righteousness and the hindrance and punishment of wickedness, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: God of all comfort, remember those who mourn and those in need of Your healing, *[especially \_\_\_\_\_,]* that Christ would be their joy in sorrow, their health in sickness, their peace in turmoil and their life in death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord of the harvest, grant that in true faith we may worthily go to Your altar to receive the very body and the true blood that Your Son has given for our redemption. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly Father, You have planted Your Word in the hearts of Your children. Grant that we would rejoice to receive this gift and use it to bear abundant fruit in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: These things and whatever else You know that we need, kind Father, grant us for the sake of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the 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 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** ----- **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!

#### 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.



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

*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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