

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY + 09 FEBRUARY 2025+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

*The entire service, including the **rubrics** of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.*

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

Communion Policy

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and welcome to The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

To Those Intending To Commune This Morning:

We respectfully request that those visiting this morning would speak to Pastor Killian before coming to the altar for Holy Communion. While we desire that all who believe would join us in this feast of forgiveness, we are mindful of what God has spoken to us in His word regarding receiving this precious meal:

"Whoever therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself." (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

In light of this scripture and others, we take admittance to the Lord's Supper most seriously. **It is God's desire that you approach His table with a prepared heart and mind, and our desire that you join us. Please speak to Pastor Killian that we may maintain good order and a God pleasing approach to His most precious gift of mercy! Thank you.**

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
 3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our
 4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
 mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the
 Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.
 world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.
 pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, 1919–2010

Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

Text: © 1969 OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 71:15–18; antiphon: v. 12

O God, be not | far from me;*
O my God, make haste to | help me!
My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,*
for their number is past my | knowledge.
With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;*
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

**O God, from my youth you have | taught me,*
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.**

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,*
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those to
come.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

O God, be not | far from me,*
O my God, make haste to | help me!

Kyrie

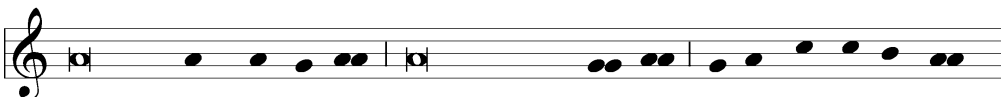
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



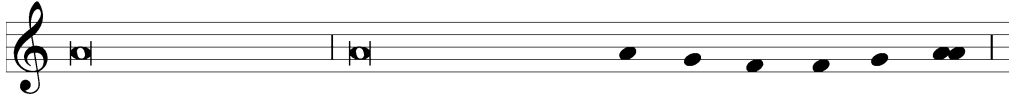
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



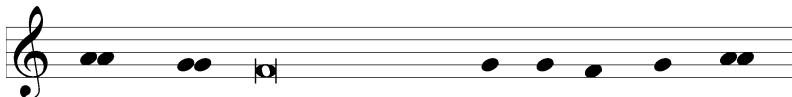
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



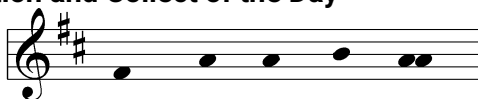
This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah's Vision of the LORD

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 138

¹I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

²**I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.**

³On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.

⁴**All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,**

⁵and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶**For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.

⁸**The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

Since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

¹³Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. ¹⁶Otherwise, if you give thanks with your

spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. ¹⁸I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - nointed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;
 5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
 To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.
 All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.
 From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
 To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;
 The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
 Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.
 And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.
 His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.
 His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is “hear our prayer”.

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

Father of all joy, You have taught us to believe in Your righteous acts and deeds of salvation from our youth. Teach us now to proclaim Your might to the next generation, that they, too, may rejoice in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God of hosts, sustain those called to be fishers of men in Christ’s Church. Grant that they would not be discouraged when they toil all night and take nothing, but continue to let down their nets at His Word according to that calling. Lord, in Your mercy,

P O Lord, give us faith to let down the nets of Your Word in our daily vocations and to trust Your Son to do His gracious work through poor sinners like us. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Merciful God, build up Your Church and manifest Your Spirit among us with wisdom and knowledge. Let our words be measured and intelligible to our fellow Christians and to those outside Your Church, that we may utter our “Amens” confidently in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

P O God, be not far from us. As You have worked deeds of salvation in Christ Jesus, so make haste to help us now in every trouble. Give healing to the sick, strength to the weak and comfort to the afflicted *especially Alice, Allison, Betty, Bev, Bill, Diane, Esperanza, Jason, Johnathan, Lynette, Marion and her family, Ron, Stephen, and Timothy*. Do not forsake us nor the generations to come. Lord, in Your mercy,


P Send from Your altar, O Lord, the body and blood of Christ. Cleanse us and our lips by this blessed Sacrament and deliver to us the atonement Christ has won for us, that we may be worthy to stand before You now and at the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

P O Lord, never depart from us. Though we are unworthy of You and Your bounty, You are pleased to receive our meager thanks and reluctant obedience for the sake of Christ’s perfect obedience. Let Your Word rule us

Service of the Sacrament

Preface


LSB 177



P The Lord be with you.



G And al-so with you.




P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.


Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

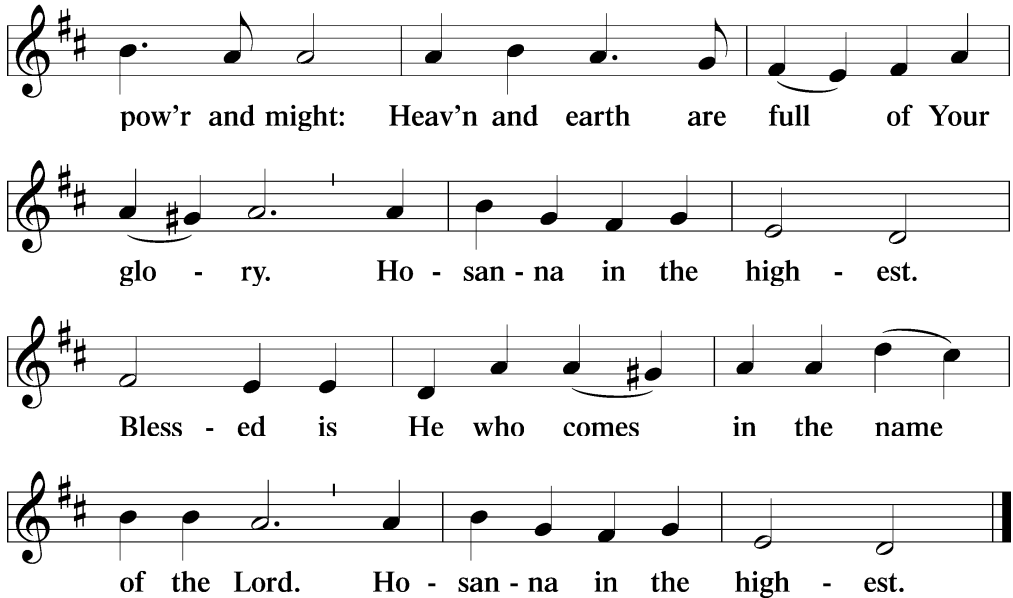
P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

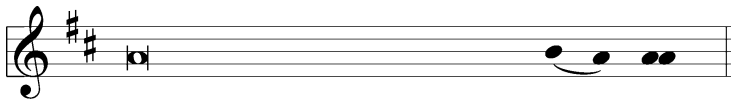
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Please refer to the Communion policy on page 2 before approaching the altar.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,
blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to
Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

628 Your Table I Approach



- 1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what

He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
 joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls 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.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 183

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C A - men.

Hymn to Depart

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901
Text and tune: Public domain

Toccata in E Minor

Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762)

Acknowledgments

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February Birthdays!

Trinity Killian 17th

Greg Griffin 20th

A Note From The Organist:

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth” is a text by James Quinn (1919-2010) who was a Catholic priest in Scotland. He wrote a large number of Hymn texts. The melody is one of the traditional Lutheran chorales. Walther would have known it as “Dearest Jesus We are Here.” He gives us four verses of the tune.

Eberlin lived during a period of transition in music, as the Baroque was gradually giving way the Classical style of Haydn and Mozart. He lived in Salzburg, and was well-acquainted with Leopold Mozart, who esteemed his music greatly. Although all of his Toccatas have an attached Fugue, he only uses the title “Toccata” to describe them. The C Minor toccata reflects the more classical style, while the Fugue retains the character of the Baroque era.

✝ THIS WEEK’S NOTES ✝

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday’s Attendance: 31**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** February 9th Gayle
February 16th Marie
Cleanup for February: Marie and Susie

+ **Ushers for February:** Clinton Galloway and Ed Griffin

+ **Service Project!** After service today, we will be assembling water filters for those in need. There are 50 water filters to assemble. If we all join together, they will be assembled in a matter of minutes, helping to provide families with clean water for years!

+ **Join us on Wednesdays at 7pm for Bible Study of Genesis on Zoom! Links are sent out weekly as well as posted on the website.**

Bulletin Blurb for the Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Luke 5:5 – “And Simon answered, ‘Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.’” In Peter’s words there is both exasperation and trust. He’s tired. He tried his best and failed. But he is still ready to trust the Lord’s Word and act on it. Our stewardship is also a matter of trusting the Lord’s Word and acting on it.

Weekly Memory Verse Challenge

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens. **1 Chronicles 16:25–26**

Lectionary Summary for the Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Jesus Comforts His People and Builds Up His Church by the Ministry of His Gospel

When Isaiah “saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up,” he was overcome with an awareness of his sin and “unclean lips” (Is. 6:1, 5). But the Lord atoned for his sin, took away his guilt and sanctified his lips with “a burning coal” from the altar (Is. 6:6–7). Not only was he rescued from death, but he was called and sent as a prophet of the Lord’s Word (Is. 6:8–9). Similarly, when Simon Peter and his companions “enclosed a large number of fish” at the Word of Jesus, he humbled himself and said, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man” (Luke 5:4–8). But Jesus comforted Simon, called him to discipleship and declared that he would be “catching men” (Luke 5:10–11). So in the Office of the Ministry, the Church remains the little boat from which Jesus teaches His people (Luke 5:3). Thus are we instructed in the faith, so that we say “Amen” and return thanks with heart, mind, tongue and life. For the preaching of Christ Jesus is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, by which He builds up His Church on earth (1 Cor. 14:12–19).

A Snippet From 1517

Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) (Epiphany 5: Series C)

God’s holiness is both law and gospel. His holiness not only threatens sinners, but it also makes them holy by the forgiveness of sins.

Isaiah 6 deals with the prophet’s ministry from roughly 740 to 730 BC, but more specifically our text deals with his call into the ministry. This pairs nicely with the appointed gospel lesson from Luke 5:1-11 where Jesus calls Simon into the ministry as well. In Isaiah’s inaugural vision, he cries, “Woe is me, I am a man of unclean lips,” and Simon tells Jesus the same by claiming to be unworthy and a sinner. Both are appropriate responses before a holy God. There seems to be a common pattern for call/commissioning narratives in the Bible (see Genesis 24:1-9; Exodus 3:1-12; Judges 6:11-16; 1 Kings 22; Jeremiah 1:4-10; and Ezekiel 1-3). These are the literary components of call narratives: Divine confrontation, introductory word (verses 1-2), commission (verses 3-7), objection (verse 11a), and reassurance (verses 11b-13) with an accompanying sign. Now, compare all of this over and against the call of Simon Peter in Luke 5 and you have a nice bookend for preaching which lands you in a story of Christ in the witness of the Church.

When preaching this text, there are many directions you could go, but I would suggest making the most homiletical hay out of verses six through eight. Here, we have the strongest ties to the work of God in atonement for sinners and a sacramental connection that helps us discern the working of God in the lives of His people. In verses six and seven, the burning of the incense protected the priest against the risk of death from the nearer presence of God (Leviticus 16:12-13). Holiness is like bleach to sin; it just goes after it to get rid of it. So, the Lord’s gift of atonement to Isaiah in verse seven also demonstrates

Israel's relationship to God. They are unclean, like Isaiah, and under wrath unless the Lord gives free and full forgiveness. The Lord graciously provided atonement for Isaiah and He does for Israel (44:21-22; 53:5-6) and He does for us as well.

Listen to what Paul says in Romans 3:23-26:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

In our reading, notice how God's holiness is both law and gospel. His holiness not only threatens sinners, but it also makes them holy by the forgiveness of sins. The live coal is "sacramental-esque" in that it is a visible element with the promise of forgiveness attached to it. This little sacramental foreshadowing continues to reveal a God who makes sinners holy through "means," which we now receive clearly and fully in the font and at the table. In fact, developing a sacramental connection to the Supper may make a meaningful connection between Isaiah and the lives of our hearers. We receive this gift from the altar (not in a "Hiphil"[1] kind of way like Isaiah did) and by this Word of Christ attached to the bread and wine we receive His promise of the forgiveness of sins that sends us out with lives cleaned by Christ's forgiving body and blood which makes us witnesses to the Word of God and His work among us. However, verse eight makes an even stronger connection. In this verse we see how Yahweh must send us. You cannot send yourself. You cannot appoint yourself. You cannot call yourself. God calls, sends, and equips His people through the Word and Sacraments to witness this work and word to the world.

Lutheran's For Life Thoughts

Both Isaiah (Isaiah 6:5) and Peter (Luke 5:8) believed their sinfulness unforgivable. Many mothers and fathers conclude the same about aborting their own children. Yet God's mercy overflows the altar (Isaiah 6:6-7) and even the temple (Luke 5:3) until Jesus preaches it in public abundance. And in both cases He commissions agents to continue announcing. Let us also extend His grace to hearts broken by abortion.

"We may not be trained healers, but we have been trained through our own experiences and God's Word to bring comfort. Be brave, reach out, and know the Lord is by your side. Pray for His guidance in what you say and do so you will bring needed comfort. We have a message of hope!" *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*
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