

Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

#### Gather

around the Gospel to help people

Grow

in the **Gospel** and

Go

with the Gospel

**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

# February 6 & 9, 2025 4th Sunday after Epiphany

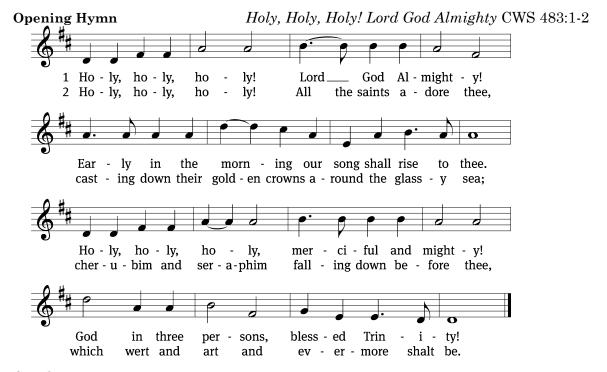


The Least Qualified Are the First Sent

Imagine you need heart bypass surgery. When meeting with the surgeon, you ask, "How many of these have you done?" He responds, "You get the honor of being my very first patient!" You probably feel more anxious than honored. With important jobs, we understand it is crucial that the person doing that job is well-qualified.

There is no more important job that sharing the good news of salvation with others. So, you would expect Jesus would only give that job to those most qualified, like the angels. Nope. The least qualified are the first sent. In love, Jesus prepares and equips us to speak on his behalf. How? He draws unworthy sinners into his presence to provide us with the free gift of holiness that we lack. Once cleansed, we jump at the opportunity to be the ones through whom God does the same for others. Here is this week's epiphany moment. Let this be a crucial epiphany moment! You might think you are unqualified to share the gospel with those Christ brings into your sphere of influence. But the least qualified are the first sent.

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.



Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

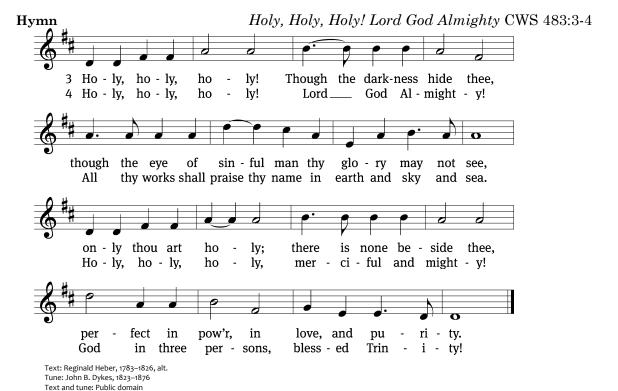
#### CONFESSION OF SINS

- M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- 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

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



# Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, you call and appoint us to proclaim the good news of your Son despite our sins and weaknesses. Purify us by your grace, remove our uncertainties, and work through us to fill the nets of your kingdom with those lost in the darkness of death; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

#### Junior Choir (Sunday 8:00 am)

So many eyes that cannot see.
So many hearts to be set free.
So little time for you and me to help them find the way.
So much to share about God's grace,
How he's prepared a heav'nly place.
Surely we can't give up the race;
we must work while it is day.

Refrain

Work while it is day; soon the night is falling. Christians, don't delay; heed the Savior's calling. Do not worry if you're ready; God will guide your way; Just simply work while it is day.

# Work While It is Day

So many lives that still walk dead.
So many souls that must be fed,
Needing to hear Christ's blood was shed;
Their ransom has been paid.
We've got the treasure in our hands;
We can't ignore the Lord's command
To spread his love to ev'ry land,
to work while it is day.

Refrain

By Jan (Nelson) Gompper Arranged by Deb Tetzlaff

#### THE WORD

First Lesson Isaiah 6:1–8

Isaiah admitted he was sinfully unclean, unqualified to stand in God's presence. The LORD not only takes Isaiah's sin away but also sends Isaiah out as a messenger of grace.

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup>And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup>At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

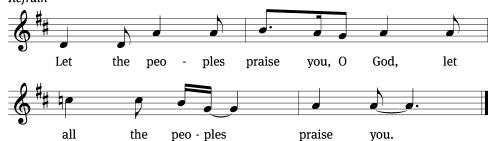
<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (NIV)

# Psalm of the Day Refrain

# Let the Peoples Praise You Psalm 67a



Tone



May God be gracious to us and / bless us

and make his face / shine on us—

so that your ways may be / known on earth, your salvation among all / nations.

May the peoples / praise you, God;

may all the peoples / praise you.

May the nations be glad and / sing for joy,

for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations / of the earth. Refrain

The land yields its / harvest;

God, our God, / blesses us.

May God / bless us still,

so that all the ends of the earth will / fear him.

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. Refrain

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Second Lesson Romans 10:12-17

God's plan is to equip saved sinners like us to proclaim salvation to other sinners. St. Paul explains that God has no backup plan.

<sup>12</sup>For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup>for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

<sup>14</sup>How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup>And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

<sup>16</sup>But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" <sup>17</sup>Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (NIV)

# Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long. Alleluia. (Psalm 71:15 NIV)

Stand

Gospel Luke 5:1-11

Jesus takes simple, self-admittedly sinful fishermen, seemingly unqualified for gospel ministry. He removes their fears, calls them to follow, and makes them fishers of men.

<sup>1</sup>One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup>He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

<sup>5</sup>Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

<sup>6</sup>When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup>For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup>and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." <sup>11</sup>So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

#### Nicene Creed

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 worshipped 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

# The Nicene Creed - History and Notes

The Nicene Creed was written around A.D. 325 in defense of the true Christian faith. The Council at Nicea developed it, expanding on the deity of Christ, in order to safeguard the apostles' teaching. The Second Article of the Creed is much longer than that of the Apostles' Creed because the council was addressing false doctrines about the person of Jesus Christ.

Having heard the Word of God, the church repeats what is heard, as believers confesses with the whole Christian Church the one, true Faith. This is what we believe. The creed is not a prayer, but a confession of our Faith before God and the world. The emphasis is on the second article and the cross of christ, and persecution that the Christian must bear because of his confession, the cross of which Jesus spoke when he told his disciples to "take up the cross and follow me." This is the creed for which some have given up their lives. Also in the creed we have a foundation of what the Christian church has taught and believed for centuries, and should match what the preacher shares. This is the reason why it is placed before the sermon.

#### Hymn of the Day

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying CW 745



- 1 Hark, the voice of Je sus cry ing, "Who will go and work to day?
- 2 If you can-not speak like an gels, if you can-not preach like Paul,
- 3 If you can-not be a watch-man, stand-ing high on Zi on's wall,
- 4 Let none hear you i dly say ing,"There is noth-ing I can do,"



Fields are ripe and har-vests wait-ing; who will bear the sheaves a-way?" you can tell the love of Je-sus, you can say he died for all. point-ing out the path to heav-en, of-fring life and peace to all, while the mul-ti-tudes are dy-ing, and the Mas-ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas-ter call-eth; rich re-ward he of-fers thee. If you can-not rouse the wick-ed with the judg-ment's dread a-larms, with your prayers and with your of-f'rings you can do what God de-mands; Take the task he gives you glad-ly, let his work your plea-sure be;



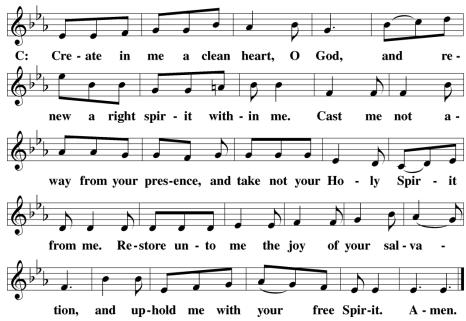
Who will an-swer, glad-ly say-ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"? you can lead the lit-tle chil-dren to the Sav-ior's wait-ing arms. you can be like faith-ful Aar-on, hold-ing up the proph-et's hands. an-swer quick-ly when he call-eth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

Text: (st. 3) unknown, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): Daniel March, 1816–1909, sts. 1,2,4, abr., alt Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Luke 5:1-11

Stand

#### Create in Me



Be Seated

# Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

# Prayer of the Church

# Lord's Prayer

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

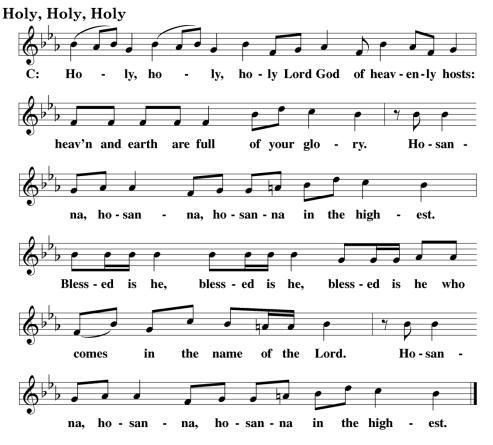
- M: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- M: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

# **Proper Preface**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



# **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: Amen



# Distribution

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.

Questions for Personal Preparation for Holy Communion are located on p.16 of this service folder.



I Hear the Savior Calling CW 743:1,4-5



- 1 I hear the Sav-ior call ing! The gos pel comes to me;
- 4 I hear the Sav-ior call ing! He chang-es hearts for me;
- 5 I hear the Sav-ior call ing! His call has ur gen cy;



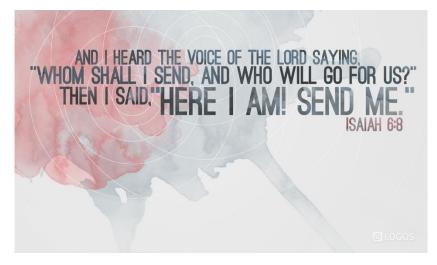
my eyes, once closed in blind-ness, are o-pened now to see from door to door I wit-ness to share my Sav-ior's plea. each mo-ment souls are dy-ing, soon comes e-ter-ni-ty.

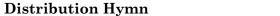


that I my-self was help-less to live e-ter-nal-ly, Yet noth-ing can be add-ed, no word on bend-ed knee, And so, my pre-cious Sav-ior, this is my hum-ble plea:



but, dy - ing, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me! be - yond the sim - ple gos - pel; my Sav - ior calls for me! pre - pare me for my mis - sion, for you are call - ing me!

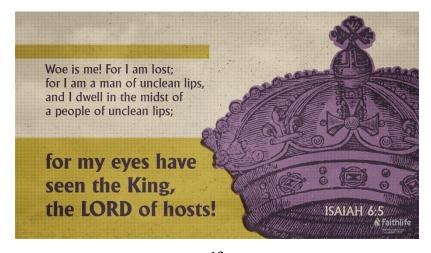




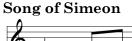
I'm But a Stranger Here CW 853



Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807-1835, abr. Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900 Text and tune: Public domain



#### Stand





M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

Gen-tiles and the glo - ry

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.

of your peo-ple Is

ra - el.

# C: Amen.

# Benediction

M: 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: Amen.

Be Seated





2 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He leads a soul to me, 3 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He gives this charge to me:



a soul in bit - ter an - guish, one need - ing to be free. to serve the best I'm a - ble, what - e'er the call may be.



The gift I have to of - fer is Christ, my Lord's de-cree Thus hand in hand with oth - ers who share the gos-pel key



that all have been for - giv - en; my Sav - ior calls for me! we spread the gos - pel ti - dings; my Sav - ior calls for me!

Text: John C. Lawrenz, b. 1943 Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–1874

Hymn

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# PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.