

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 9 & 12, 2023

The Season The season of Epiphany highlights the revealing of the Son of God as the Savior of the whole world—both Jew and Gentile. God revealed the mystery of his person and his mission through the words and works of the Father, though the anointing and empowering of the Spirit, and through the preaching and miracles of Christ.

The Sunday The Savior's Sermon: Live a holy life! Jesus came to free us *from* sin. He did not come to free us to sin. The commands in the lessons today remind us just how holy our God is, and their dire warnings remind us just how holy he wants us to be. After examining our lives, we must despair, but the Verse of the Day reminds us to flee to Christ who has the words of life. Then the Prayer of the Day asks that we might be given the grace to both know and do what pleases him.

Hymn

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word CW 221



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



Now to seek and love and fear you, By your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
peo - ple rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84, st. 1-3; *Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; unknown, st. 4, alt.

Tune: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER (78 78 88) Johann R. Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

Stand

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

C: Amen.

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran
Synod



MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN

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.

Confession

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins, Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Absolution (pronouncement of forgiveness)

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

Mark 10:47

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

Glory Be To God *Gloria in Excelsis* (sung)

Luke 2:14

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race. | 3. O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
You take all human sin away.
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God's right hand, your mercy share. |
| 2. Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son. | 4. You Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen. |

THE WORD

M: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

First Lesson:

2 Samuel 11:1-17,26-27

Our Savior's call to holy living leads us to have a healthy fear of sin. What a warning God provides us in David! When the king was at the height of his power and full of God's blessing, his great fall began. Why? Because he toyed with sin. He let lust fester and morph into adultery. He spoke lies until deception ruled his heart. Jesus' call to live a holy life is like a mother warning her child to beware a hot stove. It is a call motivated by love and meant for our safety.

¹¹ In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³ and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

⁶ So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

¹⁰ David was told, "Uriah did not go home." So he asked Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?"

¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

¹² Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ At David's invitation, he ate and

drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵ In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

¹⁶ So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. ¹⁷ When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

²⁶ When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. ²⁷ After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 119a CW



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.



Blessed are they whose ways are blameless,*
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

Blessed are they who keep his statutes*
and seek him with all their heart.

You have laid down precepts*
that are to be fully obeyed.

Refrain

Oh, that my ways were steadfast*
in obeying your decrees!

Then I would not be put to shame*
when I consider all your commands.

I will praise you with an upright heart*
as I learn your righteous laws.

**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

Refrain Tune: Joyce Schubkegal. © 1993 Joyce Schubkegal (admin. Northwestern Publishing House). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Paul does not speak to them as heathens, but as people who are in fact living in order to please God. Paul's words, then, instruct and admonish them to do this more and more. The authority behind his preaching of sanctification did not come from Paul's life but from the authority of Christ himself. This is what Christ wants! The Thessalonians faced the same problem we do: we know what God wants; we understand it; we just don't do it consistently. Paul applies the warning of God's Law and the calling of God's Gospel. Paul repeatedly emphasizes this: You know it, so now we urge you to do it more and more.

4 As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

9 Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. 10 And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, 11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. (John 6:68)

Stand

M: The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 5.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

Gospel:

Matthew 5:21-37

Jesus commands us to be holy in our relationships with our brothers, our adversaries, our bodies, our spouse, and our God. Hearing his instructions for the Christian life, we see that God is far holier than we can imagine! How high Jesus sets the bar here: not just acts, but thoughts—not just words, but attitudes, are judged by our God! In the place of a pharisaical form of godliness, Jesus calls for true spiritual righteousness. God's demands of holiness only highlight the depravity of our sinful nature.

21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister^[Ex 20:13] will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’^[Ex 20:14] ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹ “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’^[Dt 24:1] ³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ ³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening CW 283



1 Speak, O Sav - ior; I am lis - t'ning, As a ser - vant
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you And to lis - ten
3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing Where I quench my
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let your words in



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or
to your voice! Let me ev - er love and fear you;
thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me



To your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, That each day, my
 Let your Word still be my choice. Man - y hard - ened
 On your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will
 That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly



whole life through, I may serve and fol - low
 sin - ners, Lord, Flee in ter - ror at your
 be my light Through death's cold and drear - y
 sing your praise, From my heart glad an - thems



you. Let your Word e'er be my plea - sure
 Word, But to all who feel sin's bur - den
 night; Yes, they are my sword pre - vail - ing
 raise, Till my high - est praise is giv - en



And my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.
 You give peace and words of par - don.
 And my cup of joy un - fail - ing.
 In the end - less joy of heav - en.

Text: Anna Sophia of Hesse-Darmstadt, 1638–83, abr.; tr. composite.
 Tune: WERDE MUNTER (87 87 77 88) Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667.

Sermon

Thoughts, Words, Actions

2 Samuel 11:1-17,26-27

Stand

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

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

THE SACRAMENT

Preface

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also 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 good and right so to do.**

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 came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy (sung)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

1. O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.
2. Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

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.

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."
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Lamb of God *Agnes Dei*

John 1:29

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn "Lamb of God Agnes Dei". The first staff is in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a - way the" are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody, with lyrics "sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." and a key signature change to one flat (Bb). The third staff concludes the phrase with lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the" and a key signature change to one sharp (F#).

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Communion Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor or an elder before communing.

Distribution

Choir

Prayer of Communion (10:30)

Distribution Hymn

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus CW 452

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low his ex -
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, To his im - age
 3 Let us al - so die with Je - sus. His death from the
 4 Let us glad - ly live with Je - sus; Since he's ris - en
 am - ple pure, Flee the world which would de - ceive us
 e'er con - form; Heav - en's glo - ry soon will please us,
 sec - ond death, From our soul's de - struc - tion, frees us,
 from the dead, Death and grave must soon re - lease us.
 And to sin our souls al - lure. Ev - er in his
 Sun - shine fol - low on the storm. Though we sow in
 Quick - ens us with life's glad breath. Let us mor - ti -
 Je - sus, thou art now our head. We are tru - ly
 foot - steps tread - ing, Bod - y here, yet soul a - bove,
 tears of sor - row, We shall reap in heav'n - ly joy,
 fy, while liv - ing, Flesh and blood and die to sin,
 thine own mem - bers; Where thou liv - est, there live we.



Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the
 And the fears that now an - noy Shall be laugh - ter
 And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the
 Take and own us con - stant - ly, Faith - ful Friend, as



Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful Lord, a - bide with me.
 on the mor - row. Christ, I suf - fer here with thee;
 gate to heav - en. Je - sus, here I die to thee,
 thy dear breth - ren. Je - sus, here I live to thee,



Sav - ior, lead; I fol - low thee.
 There, oh, share thy joy with me.
 There to live e - ter - nal - ly.
 Al - so there e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. J. Adam Rimbach, 1871-1941, alt.
 Tune: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN (87 87 877 877) Georg G. Boltze, 18th century, alt.

Stand

Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis* (sung)

Luke 2:29-32

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 O Lord, now let your servant
 Depart in peace, assured:
 For I have seen your promised
 incarnate, saving Word—
 A Light that will enlighten
 All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
 The brilliant, crowning glory
 Of those in Israel!</p> | <p>2 All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever three in one;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God's triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.</p> |
|--|--|

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

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.

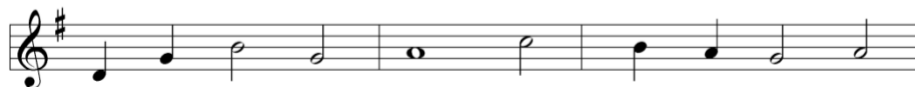
Be seated

Hymn

Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways CW 462



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, And
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands— 'Tis



keep his stat - utes still! Oh, that my God would
make my heart sin - cere; Let sin have no do -
strict - er watch to keep; And should I e'er for -
a de - light - ful road— Nor let my head or



grant me grace To know and do his will!
min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
get your way, Re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: EVAN (CM) William H. Havergal, 1793–1870, adapt.

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