

Sunday, January 26, 2025
The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Service Theme
REJECTION IS NOT PROOF OF FAILURE

When you are trying to share some important information with someone, but they refuse to listen or perhaps totally reject what you are saying, it feels like you have failed. This is especially true when someone rejects the gospel! We proclaim the good news because we want others to know the love of Christ. When people are disinterested in God's Word, we feel like we've failed. So, here is this week's epiphany. Rejection is not proof of failure. Precisely because the gospel is divine revelation, it is guaranteed to be rejected by many. God's Word offends like an unwelcome diagnosis from the doctor. When someone rejects God's Word (including us), that rejection is proof that God's Word powerfully cuts straight to the heart of mankind's biggest problem—sin. Yet, what causes Jesus' words to hurt is what gives them power to heal. That reality encourages us to receive God's Word with joy and to proclaim it boldly to others.

517 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

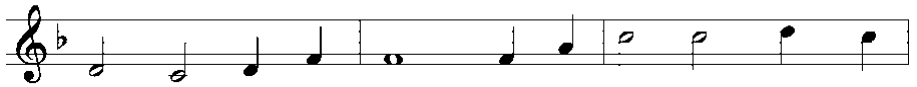
CW 517



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -
2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren with a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing
gen - tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the
in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the
pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool
may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing
wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand; from this
glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.
well comes liv - ing wa - ter, quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt.

Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

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The Service *Setting One (page 154)*

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



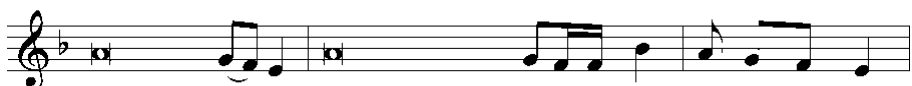
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



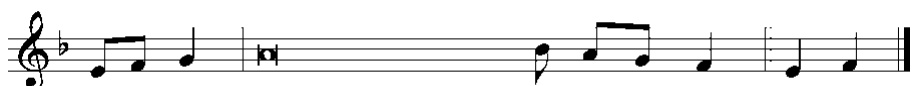
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1–6

Israel had rejected the Lord. So God allowed them to be conquered and carried off as captives. Yet, he also promised to forgive their rejection and grant them freedom.

¹The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the afflicted.
He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release for those who are bound,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion,
to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,
so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

⁴Then they will rebuild ancient ruins.
 They will raise up what was formerly devastated,
 and they will renew ruined cities,
 which have been devastated for generations.
⁵Strangers will stand and shepherd your flock,
 and foreigners will be your farmers and vinedressers.
⁶You will be called the LORD's priests.
 You will be named ministers of our God.
 You will eat the wealth of nations,
 and you will boast about their riches.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

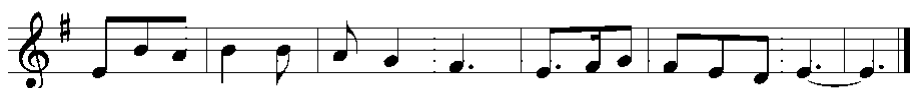
118A This is the Day the LORD Has Made

Psalm 118A

Refrain



This is the day the LORD has made, let us re-joice and be glad!



This is the day the LORD has made, let us re-joice and be glad!

Tone



The LORD is my strength and / my defense;
 he has become my sal- / vation.
 The LORD's right hand is / lifted high;
 the LORD's right hand has done / mighty things!
 I will not / die but live,
 and will proclaim what the / LORD has done. *Refrain*

I will give you thanks, for you / answered me;
you have become my sal- / vation.
The stone the builders re- / jected
has become the / cornerstone;
the LORD has / done this,
and it is marvelous / in our eyes.
**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**

Text: Lectionary for Mass

Tune: Marty Haugen

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Second Reading

Acts 4:8–12

Even though the Jewish religious leaders rejected Jesus and had Him killed, God raised Him to life, placing him as the cornerstone of our faith. There is no salvation apart from Him.

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, ⁹if we are being questioned today for a kind act that was done for the lame man, as to how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead! By him this man stands before you healed. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.

¹²“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

²²They all spoke well of him and were impressed by the words of grace that came from his mouth. And they kept saying, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

²³He told them, "Certainly you will quote this proverb to me, 'Physician, heal yourself!' Do here in your hometown everything we heard you did in Capernaum." ²⁴And he said, "Amen I tell you: No prophet is accepted in his hometown.

²⁵But truly I tell you: There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut for three years and six months, while a great famine came over all the land.

²⁶Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in Sidon. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was healed except Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸All those who were in the synagogue were filled with rage when they heard these things. ²⁹They got up and drove him out of the town. They led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the middle of them and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

384 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

CW 384



- 1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
- 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
- 3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring;
- 4 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,
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
To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,
The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - rant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
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.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, abr., alt.
Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601
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Sermon

Acts 4:8–12

God raised Jesus to be our only Saviour.

- 1) Don't reject Him because He doesn't fit your life.
- 2) Let the Holy Spirit build your life on Him instead.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.
Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition*]. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near. **Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [*especially . . . here name the person*]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering

905 Good News of God Above

CW 905



1 Good news of God a - bove is ours to tell a -
2 The love of Christ pro - claim, who left his home on
3 The Lord of glo - ry lives! From cross and death and
4 Hear now the Mas - ter's word to those who bear his



broad, the Fa - ther's ev - er - last - ing love in
high; to live our hu - man life he came, our
grave his own a - bun - dant life he gives to
name: "So send I you," till all have heard, "make



Christ the ris - en Lord. For neigh - bors near and
hu - man death to die. The Fa - ther's on - ly
those he died to save. His right - eous - ness and
known, de - clare, pro - claim!" Go forth in all the



far the seed of life is sown; then spread the
Son be - came the sin - ners' friend, our lot to
peace de - clare from sea to sea; his prais - es -
earth; em - brace the path he trod with Christ be -



seed by word and deed to make the Sav - ior known.
share, our sin to bear, and death's do - min - ion end.
sound the world a - round for Christ has made us free.
side as friend and guide to bring good news of God.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949

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Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

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 T give you peace.

Amen.

929 May the Peace of God

CW 929



1 May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther,
2 May this peace which pass - es un - der - stand - ing,



and the grace of Christ the ris - en Son,
and this grace which makes us what we are,



and the fel - low - ship of God the Spir - it
and this fel - low - ship of his com - mun - ion



keep our hearts and minds with - in his love.
make us one in spir - it and in heart.

Refrain

And to him be praise for his glo - rious reign
 from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
 We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain—
 Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (26) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
- Tu (27) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
7:00 pm Council Meeting
- We (29) 11:30 am "New" Foundations Class (BIC)
4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
- Th (30) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (31) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Su (2) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:30 am Coffee Hour (no First Fellowship)
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**
- Tu (4) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- We (5) 11:30 am "New" Foundations Class (BIC)
4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
- Th (6) 10:30 am Devotion at Longfield Manor
6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (7) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Su (9) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Sweetheart Dinner

Announcements

Church Cleaners

February 2 – Andrew // February 9 – Peter

Sweetheart Dinner

On Sunday, February 9th, we will have our annual Sweet Hearts Spaghetti dinner after Church. This meal is meant to thank the women for all they do. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for men to help prepare and host this dinner.

WELS National Teen Bible Study

February 16, 2025 | 7 p.m. Easter Time

The WELS National Teen Bible Study is an online opportunity for teens across the country to connect around the Word. Held quarterly, teens can sign up and meet through Zoom. Bible study topics will be relevant to teens and are led by various WELS pastors. Teens will be able to interact with one another through breakout rooms. For more information, goto:

wels.net/event/wels-national-teen-bible-study-2



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