



Sunday, February 15, 2025

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

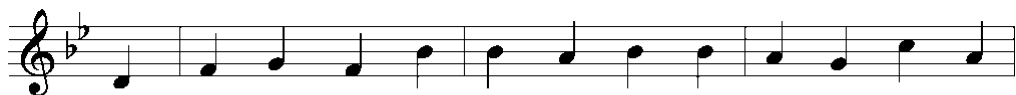
Service Theme

BLESSINGS ARE CURSED; CURSES ARE BLESSED

As Jesus gathered followers, he taught them that his kingdom runs exactly opposite to the principles and priorities of the world. That which the world considers a blessing can often be a curse. Things like success and wealth and health can lead us away from our God. Conversely, there are hidden blessings in what we would normally consider curses. When we fail, when we suffer, and when things don't go our way, it forces us to put our trust in God and for our souls to be satisfied in him. The reality is that perceived blessings can be cursed and perceived curses can be used for our blessing.

838 The Will of God Is Always Best

CW 838



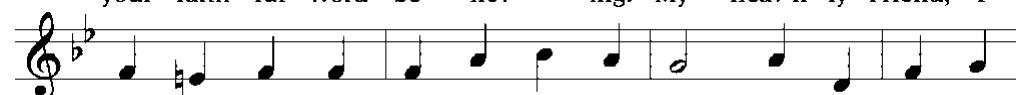
1 The will of God is al - ways best and shall be done for -
2 God is my com - fort and my trust, my hope and life a -
3 Lord, this I ask, O hear my plea, de - ny me not this
4 When life's brief course on earth is run and I this world am



ev - er; and they who trust in him are blest;
bid - ing, and to his coun - sel, wise and just,
fa - vor: when Sa - tan sore - ly trou - bles me,
leav - ing, grant me to say, "Your will be done,"



he will for - sake them nev - er. He helps in - deed in
I yield, in him con - fid - ing. The ver - y hairs, his
then do not let me wa - ver. O guard me well, my
your faith - ful Word be - liev - ing. My heav'n - ly Friend, I



time of need; he chas - tens with fore - bear - ing. They who de -
Word de - clares, up - on my head he num - bers. By night and
fear dis - pel, ful - fill your faith - ful say - ing: all who be -
now com - mend my soul in - to your keep - ing, o'er sin and



pend on God, their friend, shall not be left de - spair - ing.
day God is my stay; he nev - er sleeps nor slum - bers.
lieve by grace re - ceive an an - swer to their pray - ing.
hell and death as well in you the vic - t'ry reap - ing.

Text: Albrecht von Preussen, 1490–1568; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Claudin de Sermisy, c. 1490–1562

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in
my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a
sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy





Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove and for our sal -



va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world,



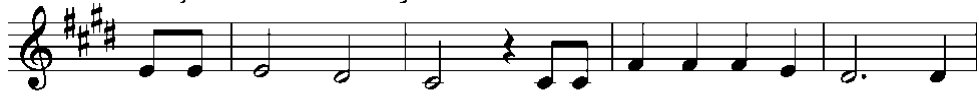
for the well - be - ing of the Church of God,



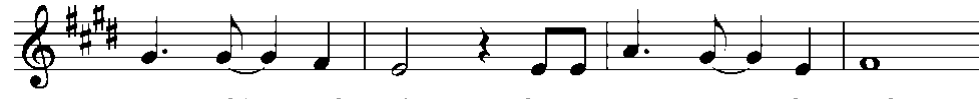
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their



wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.






Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have




mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.




You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.




Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the



high - est! Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, and peace to his




peo - ple on earth. For you a - lone are the



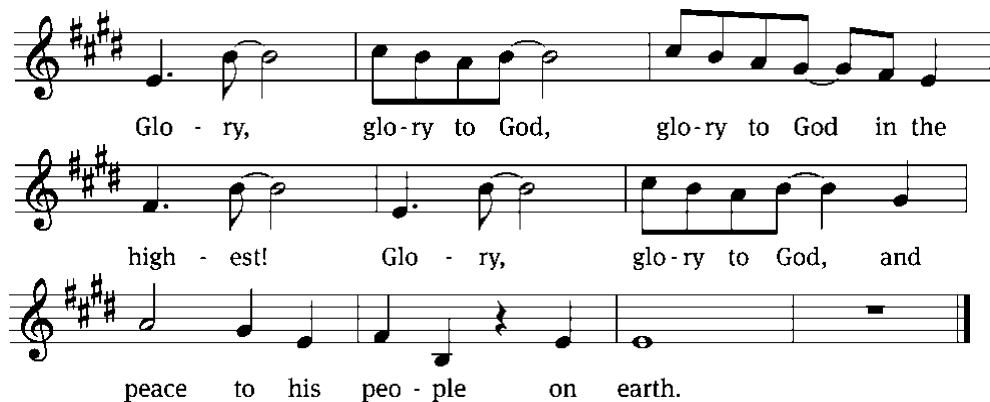
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the



Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God of power and might, you know that we live in the midst of many great dangers, and in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Give us strength and protection to support us in all peril, and carry us through all temptations; 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

Jeremiah 17:5–8

A blessed life is not connected to outward circumstances like health or wealth. Rather, the one who is blessed is the one who has been given the gift of faith, whose trust is in the LORD.

⁵This is what the LORD says.

Cursed is anyone who trusts in mankind,
who seeks his strength from human flesh,
and who turns his heart away from the LORD.

⁶He will be like a juniper bush in the wasteland.
He will not see good things when they come.
He lives in a dry place in the wilderness,
in a salty land where no one lives.

⁷But blessed is anyone who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

⁸He will be like a tree planted by water.
It sends out its roots to the stream.
It does not fear the heat when it comes.
Its leaves will remain green.
It is not concerned about a time of drought.
It does not stop producing fruit.

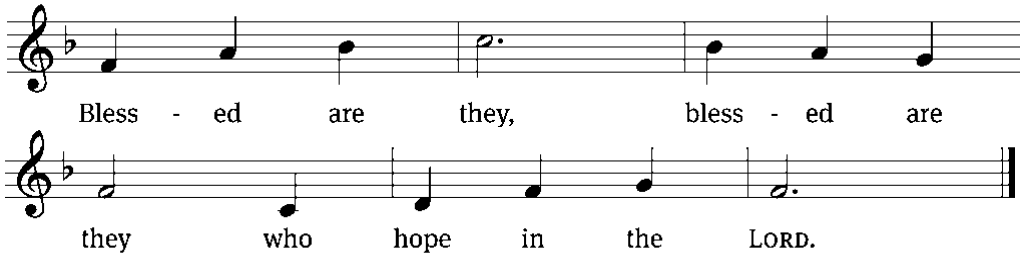
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1A Blessed Are They

Psalm 1A

Refrain



Bless - ed are they, bless - ed are
they who hope in the LORD.

Tone



Blessed is the one who / does not walk
in step with the / wicked
or stand in the way that / sinners take
or sit in the company of / mockers,
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law / day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,
which yields its fruit in / season
and whose leaf does not / wither—
whatever they do / prospers. *Refrain*

Not so the / wicked!
They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous. *Refrain*

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.

**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***

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

Paul had some infirmity he initially viewed as a weakness. He came to see it as a blessing as it forced him to rely on God's strength.

⁷Therefore, to keep me from becoming arrogant due to the extraordinary nature of these revelations,

I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. ⁹And he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me.

¹⁰That is why I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then am I strong.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 121:8



Refrain

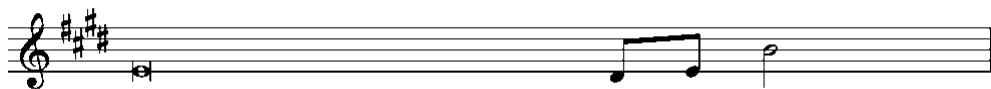


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



The LORD will watch over your coming and go - ing



both now and for - ev - er - more.

Gospel

Luke 6:17–26

In one of his most famous sermons Jesus teaches that the good things we seek are found in places we would least expect.

¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples, and a large number of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, as well as from the coastal area of Tyre and Sidon. These people came to listen to him and to be healed of their diseases. ¹⁸Those who were troubled by unclean spirits were also cured. ¹⁹The whole crowd kept trying to touch him, because power was going out from him and healing them all.

²⁰He lifted up his eyes to his disciples and said:

Blessed are you who are poor,
because yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Blessed are you who hunger now,
because you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, because you will laugh.

²²Blessed are you whenever people hate you,
and whenever they exclude and insult you
and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man.

²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy because of this: Your reward is great in heaven!

The fact is, their fathers constantly did the same things to the prophets.

²⁴But woe to you who are rich,
because you are receiving your comfort now.

²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now,
because you will be hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
because you will be mourning and weeping.

²⁶Woe to you when all people speak well of you,
because that is how their fathers constantly treated the false prophets.

The Gospel of the Lord.

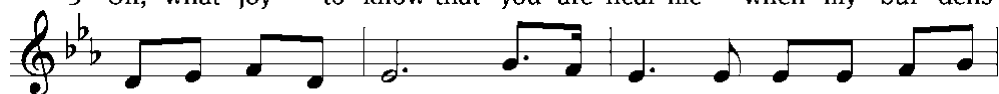
Praise be to you, O Christ!

803 Day by Day

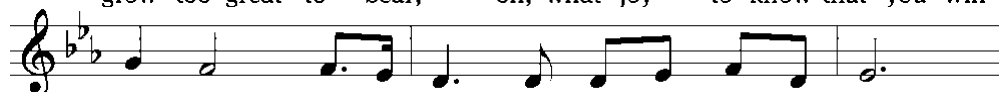
CW 803



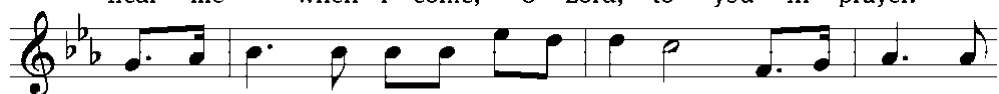
1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



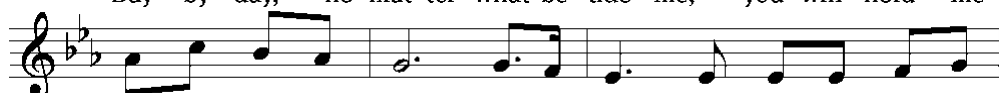
to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will



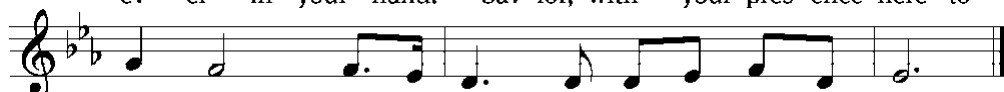
send me draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
 guide me o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
 hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row, I will trust in
 Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me, you will hold me



bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior, lead me to the home I
 your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and
 ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to



trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005 Tune: Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
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Sermon Text & Theme - 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

Let His grace be sufficient for you.

- 1) As you plead to Jesus for mercy,
- 2) As you consider your reason to rejoice.

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 truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Offering

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 . . .]*. 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. 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.

The Sacrament

Preface



The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

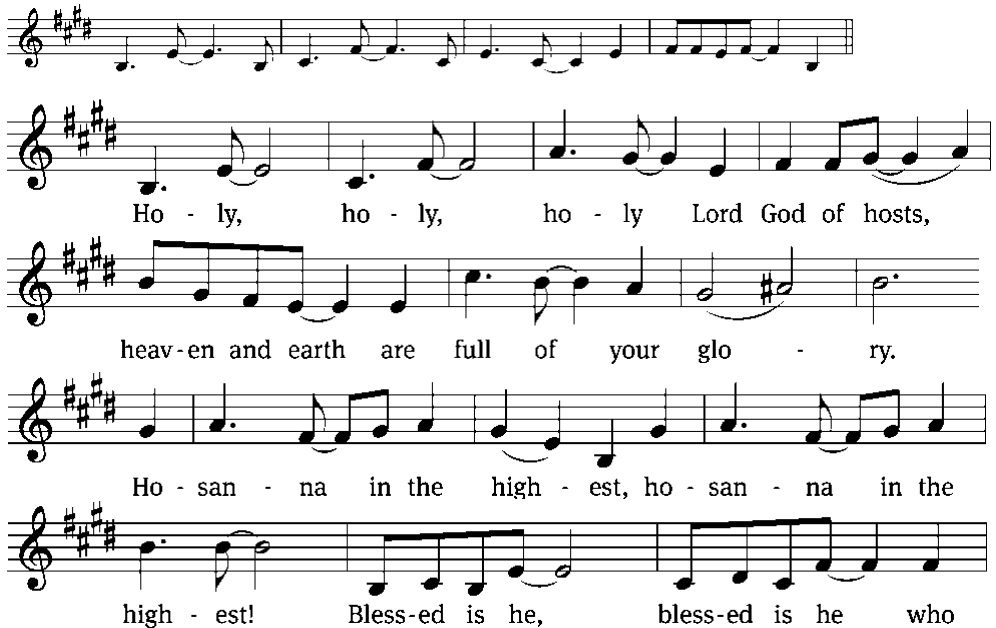


It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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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:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the
high - est! Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

Words of Institution

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 T 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 T 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.

Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world, (hmmn) have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world, (hmmn) have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world, (hmmm) grant us your peace.

(hmmm) A - men.

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Distribution

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

626 My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness

CW 626



1 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who bore my
2 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who walks be -
3 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who reigns a -



pain, who plumbed the depths of my dis - grace and
side, who floods my weak - ness - es with strength and
bove, whose wis - dom is my per - fect peace, whose



gave me life a - gain, who crushed my curse of sin - ful -
caus-es fears to fly, whose ev - 'ry prom - ise is e -
ev - 'ry thought is love. For ev - 'ry day I have on



ness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of
nough for ev - 'ry step I take, sus - tain - ing me with
earth is giv - en by the King. So I will give my



right - eous - ness with pow'r up - on my heart.
arms of love and crown - ing me with grace.
life, my all, to love and fol - low him.

* This phrase repeats at the end of st. 3.

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Divine Word
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (16) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:30 am Coffee Hour
12:00 am Evangelism Meeting
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**
7:00 pm Online Teen Bible Study
- Tu (18) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
7:00 pm Elders
- We (19) 11:30 am "New" Foundations Class (BIC)
4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
- Th (20) 10:30 am Devotion at Longfield Manor
6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (21) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Su (23) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
11:45 am Long Range Planning Meeting
- Tu (25) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
7:00 pm Council
- We (26) 11:30 am "New" Foundations Class (BIC)
4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
- Th (27) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (28) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
6:30 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (2) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:30 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**

Announcements

Church Cleaners

February 23 – Luke // February 2 – Timothy

Divine Word's Long Range Planning Meeting...

will be after worship on Sunday, February 23. All confirmed members (men and women) are encouraged to attend.

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