



Sunday, February 2, 2025
The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Service Theme

POPULARITY IS NOT PROOF OF SUCCESS

In 2009, Facebook added the “like” button. That same year, Twitter added the “retweet” feature. Interestingly, reported cases of depression began to rise sharply in 2010. It is easy to think that the more people like us, the more successful our lives must be. Likewise, it is easy to believe the more people like a church, the more successful that church is. So here is an important epiphany for both individuals and churches. Popularity is not proof of success. Though there will be times when Christ’s gospel and those who proclaim it are popular, that popularity is never the goal. Nor does that popularity define success. If a church makes its central focus things like personal improvement, healing for the sick, or social justice, that church may draw a crowd. It just fails to carry out the true agenda Christ has given his Church. The gospel of forgiveness is to be the center of all our preaching and teaching. The agenda for Christ’s Church is set. It’s the same agenda that was followed by the Church’s Christ.

908 Go Forth and Preach the Gospel

CW 908



- 1 Go forth and preach the gos - pel to all who are in need.
- 2 Go forth and preach the gos - pel to all who live in fear,
- 3 Go forth and preach the gos - pel; go spread the news a - broad!



As wit - ness to the Sav - ior, go teach by word and deed.
and share the joy - ful mes - sage that God is al - ways near.
Pro - claim to ev - 'ry na - tion the great - ness of our God.



The Spir - it is up - on us, and sends us to de - clare
The Spir - it is up - on us, and sends us forth in peace
The Spir - it is up - on us, that all may un - der - stand



good news of God's for - give - ness to peo - ple ev - 'ry - where.
to bring the poor glad ti - dings, that mer - cy may in - crease.
the prom - ise of sal - va - tion re - vealed to ev - 'ry land.

Text: James J. Chepponis, b. 1956 Tune: Gesang-Buch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784 Text: © 2009 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723 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



In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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,



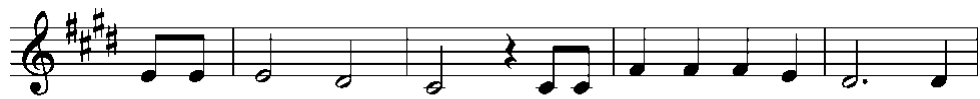
for the well - be - ing of the Church of God,



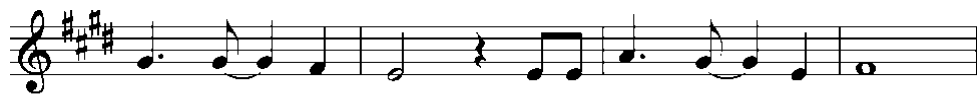
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



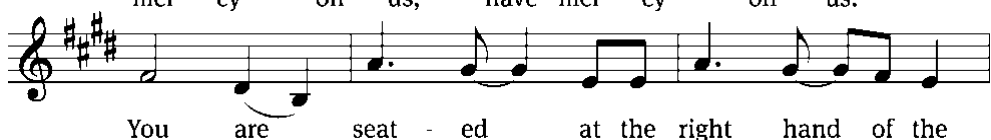
A - men.

Glory to God in the Highest

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. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
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. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
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.



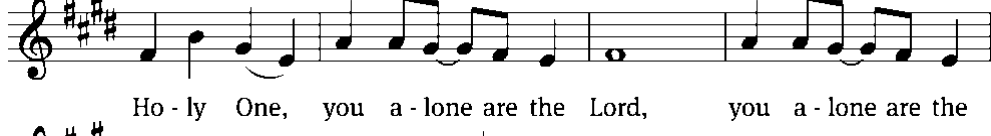
Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the



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



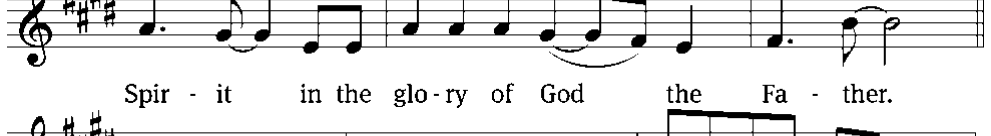
peo - ple on earth. For you a - lone are the



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.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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 1:4–10

The LORD called Jeremiah to fearlessly share God's Word, even if what he said made him unpopular.

⁴The word of the LORD came to me.

⁵Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I set you apart. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations.

⁶But I said, "Ah, LORD God! I really do not know how to speak! I am only a child!"

⁷The LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, because I am with you, and I will rescue you, declares the LORD."

⁹Then the LORD stretched out his hand and touched my mouth. The LORD said to me:

There! I have now placed my words in your mouth.

¹⁰Look, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

71A God Is My Strong Salvation

Psalm 71A

Refrain



God is my strong sal - va - tion; what foe have I to fear?

Tone



In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;

let me never be / put to shame.

In your righteousness, rescue me and de- / liver me;

turn your ear to me and / save me.

Be my rock of / refuge,

to which I can / always go. *Refrain*

Since my youth, God, you have / taught me,

and to this day I declare your / marv'lous deeds.

Even when I am / old and gray,

do not forsake / me, my God,

till I declare your power to the next gener- / ation,

your mighty acts to all who / are 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. *Refrain*

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

A temptation is for spiritual teachers to say only what people want to hear, equating personal popularity with success. St. Paul gives young Pastor Timothy a different agenda.

¹⁴As for you, continue in the things you have learned and about which you have become convinced. You know from whom you learned them ¹⁵and that from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be complete, well equipped for every good work.

¹I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom: ²Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with all patience and teaching. ³For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. ⁴They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

⁵As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

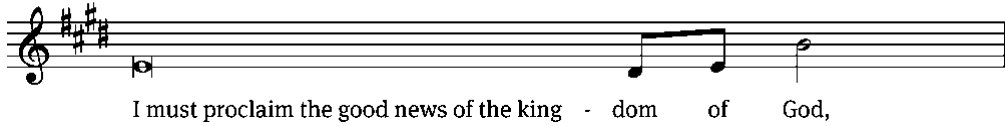
Luke 4:43



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

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Gospel

Luke 4:38-44

Jesus was popular in Capernaum. The people wanted him to stay there permanently. Jesus knew for his mission to be successful, he needed to proclaim the good news in other towns.

³⁸Jesus got up, left the synagogue, and went into Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever. They asked him to help her. ³⁹He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them. ⁴⁰As the sun was setting, they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases. He laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹Demons also came out of many people, crying out, "You are the Son of God!" He rebuked them and did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴²When it was day, he went out to a deserted place. The crowds were looking for him. They went up to him and were trying to prevent him from leaving them. ⁴³But he told them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns too, because that is why I was sent.”

⁴⁴And he continued to preach in the synagogues in the land of the Jews.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

718 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road CW 718



1 Though thought-less thou-sands choose the road that leads the
 2 In Christ, by faith, I wish to live, from him my
 3 Christ is my ev-er-last-ing all, to him I
 4 Soon will the Lord, my life, ap-pear; soon shall I
 5 Soon will the saints in glo-ry meet, soon walk through



soul a-way from God, this hap-pi-ness, dear
 life, my all, re-ceive, to him de-vote my
 look, on him I call; he will my ev-'ry
 end my tri-als here, leave sin and sor-row,
 ev-'ry gold-en street and sing on ev-'ry



Lord, be mine: to live and die en-tire-ly thine.
 fleet-ing hours, serve him a-lone with all my pow'rs.
 need sup-ply in time and through e-ter-ni-ty.
 death and pain. To live is Christ; to die is gain.
 bliss-ful plain, “To live is Christ; to die is gain.”

Sermon Text & Theme - Matthew 7:13–14

¹³Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it. ¹⁴How narrow is the gate, and how difficult is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Don't Envy Worldly Success and Popularity

- 1) It only leads to destruction.
- 2) Only Jesus brings us to life.

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

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of seven staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The melody is written on a single line of music, with lyrics printed below it. The lyrics are: '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!' The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the seventh staff.

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, (hmmm) have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world, (hmmm) 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 give you peace.

Amen.

874 Preserve Your Word, O Savior

CW 874 sts. 1-2



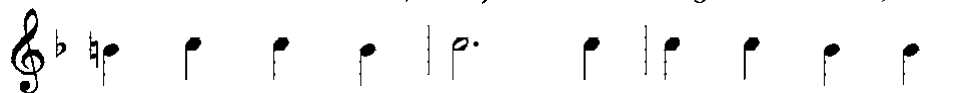
1 Pre - serve your Word, O Sav - ior, to us this lat - ter
2 Pre - serve your Word and preach - ing, the truth that makes us



day, and let your king - dom flour - ish; en - large your
whole, the mir - ror of your glo - ry, the pow'r that



Church, we pray. O keep our faith from fail - ing, keep
saves the soul. Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, this



hope's bright star a - glow; let noth - ing turn us
spring of heav'n - ly grace, sus - tain us while here



from you while wan - d'ring here be - low.
liv - ing un - til we see your face.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- 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)
- 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
- Tu (11) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- We (12) 11:30 am "New" Foundations Class (BIC)
4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
- Th (13) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (14) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
6:30 pm Friday Fellowship
- 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**

Announcements

Church Cleaners

February 9 – Peter // February 16 – Barnabas

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



Divine Word Evangelical Lutheran Church

1081 Greenbank Rd.,
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8
613-825-1629

www.divinewordottawa.ca