

Sunday, February 9, 2025
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Service Theme

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 than 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.

917 God Himself Is Present

CW 917



1 God him - self is pres - ent: let us now a - dore him
2 God him - self is pres - ent: hear the harps re - sound - ing;
3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, pu - ri - fy my spir - it,



and with awe ap - pear be - fore him. God is in his
see the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,
trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it. Like the ho - ly



tem - ple, all with - in keep si - lence, hum - bly kneel in
ho - ly!" hear the hymn as - cend - ing, songs of saints and
an - gels, wor - ship - ing be - fore you, may I cease - less -



deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone on his throne
an - gels blend - ing. Bow your ear to us here:
ly a - dore you. All my days shall my praise



is our God and Sav - ior; praise his name for - ev - er!
hear, O Christ, the prais - es that your Church now rais - es.
rise to you in heav - en for the grace you've giv - en!

Text: tr. John Miller, 1756–1790, alt.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760–1835; Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697–1769, abr.
Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680
Text and tune: Public domain

The Service

Setting Two (page 172)

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 173

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.

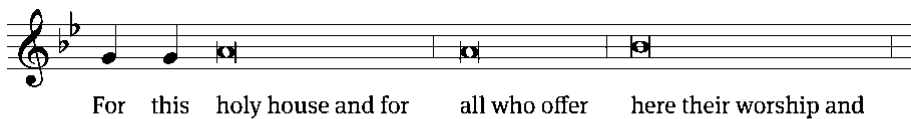
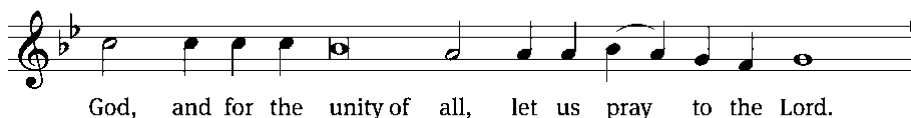
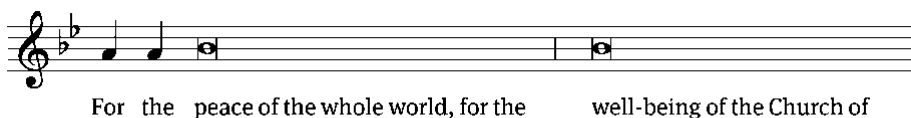
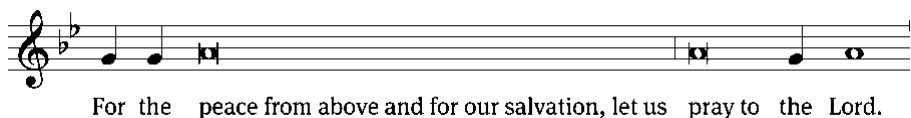
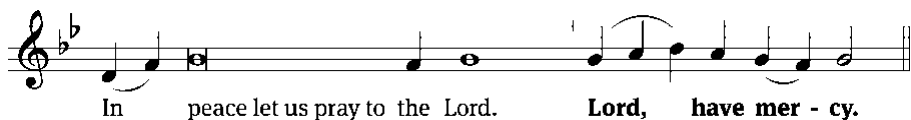
Silence for meditation and reflection

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.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174



Tune: Marty Haugen

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Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, 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 to God in the high - est, 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. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, 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. A - men. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

First Reading

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.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each one had six wings. With two they covered their faces. With two they covered their feet. With two they flew. ³One called to another and said,

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies!
The whole earth is full of his glory!

⁴The foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of the one who called, and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵Then I said, “I am doomed! I am ruined, because I am a man with unclean lips, and I dwell among a people with unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Armies!”

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, carrying a glowing coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷He touched my mouth with the coal and said, “Look, this has touched your lips, so your guilt is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.”

⁸Then I heard the Lord's voice, saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”

Then I said, “Here I am. Send me!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

67A Let the Peoples Praise You

Psalm 67A

Refrain

Let the peo - ples praise you, O God, let
all the peo - ples praise you.

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***

Tune: Christopher Tambling

Setting: David Haas

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Second Reading

Romans 10:12–17

God's plan is to equip saved sinners like us to proclaim salvation to other sinners.

¹²So there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³Yes, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴So then, how can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one about whom they have not heard?¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news of peace, who preach the gospel of good things!"

¹⁶But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who believed our message?” ¹⁷So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the word of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 71:15



Refrain



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

Tone



My mouth will tell of your right - eous deeds, of your saving acts all day long.

Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

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.

¹One time, while the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. ²He saw two boats there along the lakeshore. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³Jesus got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. He sat down and began teaching the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water, and let down your nets for a catch.”

⁵Simon answered him, “Master, we worked hard all through the night and caught nothing. But at your word I will let down the nets.” ⁶When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their nets were about to tear apart. ⁷They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, because I am a sinful man, Lord.” ⁹For Peter and all those with him were amazed at the number of fish they had caught, ¹⁰and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, “Have no fear. From now on you will be catching people.”

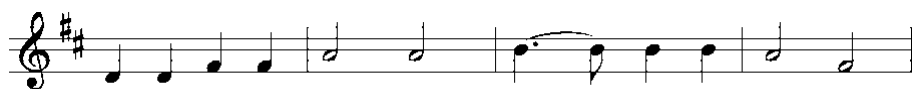
¹¹After they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

483 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

CW 483



- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! | Lord — God Al - might - y! |
| 2 | Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! | All the saints a - dore thee, |
| 3 | Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! | Though the dark-ness hide thee, |
| 4 | Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! | Lord — God Al - might - y! |



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Isaiah 6:1-8

Holy, Holy, Holy.

- 1) Come before the LORD a sinner.
- 2) Leave with Him a saint!

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

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [Pour out your special blessing on . . .] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Offering



- 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 - f'ring 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'nings 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

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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.**

716 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

CW 716 sts. 1, 4



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve to rise and fol - low you, for -
4 O Christ, th'_a - pos - tles' Lord, the mar - tyrs' strength and song, the



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways for ven - tures bold and new:
cru - ci - fied and ris - en King to whom the saints be - long:



grant us to hear your call to risk se - cur - i - ty and,
though gen - er - a - tions pass, our trib - ute still we bring, our



bound in heart and will to you, find per - fect lib - er - ty.
hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, our lives an of - fer - ing.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

Tune: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930

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Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

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**
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

Announcements

Church Cleaners

February 16 – Barnabas // February 23 – Luke

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



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WELS Canada Communique

FEBRUARY

2025

2025 AGM Announcement

After holding a virtual Annual General Meeting in 2024, the WELS Canada Board of Directors is pleased to announce that from November 4-5, 2025 our AGM will be held in-person at Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Orleans, ON. Please mark your calendars and plan accordingly. Look for more specific travel and registration information in the coming months.

WELS Canada Outreach Grant

At the 2024 AGM, Members approved a renewed Outreach Grant. WELS Canada will match up to \$2,500 (enabling a total project cost of \$5,000) for new outreach initiatives. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2025. Complete grant guidelines and a formal application have been sent to each congregation. Talk to your pastor about how and what you might apply for!

Call Decision

Rev. Mark Henrich formally accepted his call to Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Pooler, GA early in the New Year. WELS Canada is indebted to Rev. Henrich's leadership both as pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in Toronto as well as in his capacity as Canadian Mission Board Chairman. Please keep the Henriches in your prayers as they move their family, as well as the members of Hope as they begin the calling process for a new pastor.

As far as the Canadian Mission Board goes, the board has the responsibility to elect their chairman internally and has elected Rev. Metzger to the position of Chairman effective April 2025.