



***“You are the light of
the world.”***

The 5th Sunday after Epiphany
February 4 and 5, 2023



**You will keep in perfect peace
him whose mind is steadfast,
because he trusts in you.**

Isaiah 26:3

Worship Information

Welcome to worship at Living Hope Lutheran Church.

If your child becomes restless while sitting with you during the service, we have a room to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Ask an usher if you need assistance.



WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

TODAY'S WORSHIP FOCUS

Imagine a beautiful guitar, carefully crafted out of the finest mahogany and steel strings—but no one ever played it. Tragic, right? What a thing is finds fulfillment when that thing does what it was made to do.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that the same is true of discipleship. When God called us to faith, he declared that we were something new: light, salt, his children. Jesus now encourages us to be what God says we are, so that God might bless the world through us.



OPENING HYMN

633 | *Speak, O Lord*

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

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

Congregation: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

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

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: 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 you 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, accord to your
promises in Christ Jesus.**

Silence for meditation and reflection



The Invocation is based on the words used in Baptism. These words began or strengthened our relationship with Jesus, and serve as a reminder that our worship is based on his grace to us.

The first responses are from Psalm 32:1-2

These words confess the reality of our sinful actions and our natural sinfulness. They also confess the hope we have through faith in Jesus.



Jesus authorized us to speak these words of forgiveness on his behalf. Hear them as Jesus speaking to you!

The word Kyrie is a Greek word from the phrase Kyrie eleison which means, "Lord, have mercy!" This is the most heartfelt cry of a believer to his Lord. It is not a cry for forgiveness, but a cry for mercy that our Lord and King hear us and help us in everything.

M: 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.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY –Kyrie

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD — *Gloria in Excelsis*



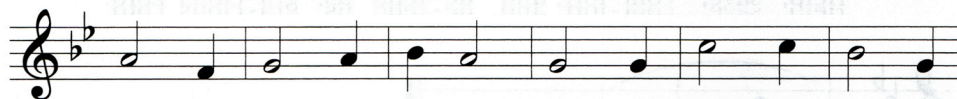
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his



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.



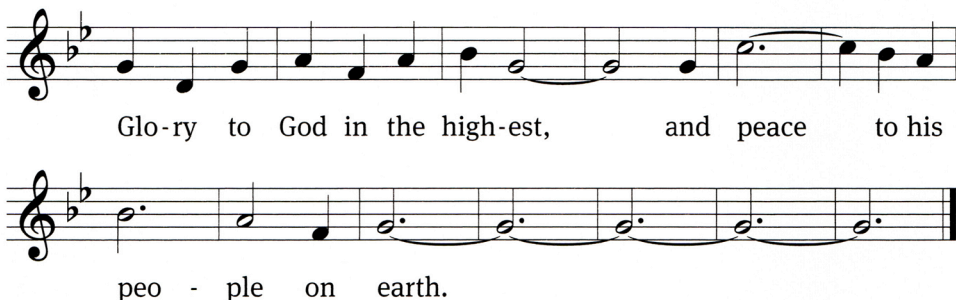
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



This ancient song of the church gets its name from its first few words in Latin: *Gloria in Excelsis Deo!* This was the greatest song of praise ever heard on earth. An angel choir sang it in the Judean sky the night Jesus was born (Luke 2:14). This song has been sung in Christian churches for 1500 years. As Martin Luther once said, "This ancient song did not grow, nor was it made, but it came from heaven."



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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

HANDBELLS

Brightest and Best of the Stars

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 19:1-8

In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on the very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.



God made Israel,
a nation of
slaves, his special
people. He
wanted Israel to
be the kingdom
of priests he had
called them to
be.

Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



This hymn uses Scriptural images from our First Lesson as well as Psalm 91 and Isaiah 40:31 to remind us of the ongoing promise that God will not leave his people!

HYMN RESPONSE

On Eagle's Wings

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a-
 2 Snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap-ture you, And
 3 For to his an - gels he's giv - en a com-mand To

bide in his shad-ow for life, Say to the Lord: "My
 fam - ine will bring you no fear; Un - der his wings your
 guard you in all of your ways; Up - on their hands they will

ref - uge, My rock in whom I trust!"
 ref - uge, His faith - ful - ness your shield.
 bear you up, Lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain

And he will raise you up on ea - gles' wings, Bear you on the
breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And
hold you in the palm of his hand.

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR

Glory, Glory to His Name



Peter encouraged us to be what God has declared us to be: members of a royal priesthood, citizens of a holy nation.



Jesus declares that his disciples are blessings to this dark, decaying world. He calls us to be what he says we are—salt and light.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 5:13-20

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.



"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

630 | *Thy Strong Word*

SERMON

Exodus 19:1-8

We Are God's Treasured Possession

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

**C: 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.**



*This Creed offers
a clear and
simple summary
of who God is
and what he has
done to save us.*



Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer when they asked him to teach them to pray. To review the content of this prayer, Luther's Small Catechism is printed in our hymnal. The section on the Lord's Prayer begins on p. 289.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER

Prayer spoken by the Minister.

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Spoken by the Minister.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN

697 | *May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill*

PLEASE STAND

CLOSING PRAYER

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

957 vs. 1-2 | *Rejoice, Angelic Choirs, Rejoice*



The Benediction is the Word of God—given by God for the Old Testament priests. The same God promises to bless you!

This hymn is a modern setting of an ancient text in the Christian Church. Usually used to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, today we close with this hymn as it reminds us of the light of Christ that is in us.



Please place your offering in the box in the back of church.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVING THIS WEEKEND

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Presiding Minister and Preacher | Pastor Thomas W. Kneser |
| Worship Accompanist | Debra Aufdenberge (Sat) / Nancy Perez (Sun.) |
| Choir Director | Jean Kaldunski |
| Handbell Director | Tina Graham |
| Saturday Usher | Jay Schwall, Andrew Schwall, Jacob Schwall, Casey Schwall, John Harders, John Harders Jr. |
| 8:00am Ushers | Dan Ody, Al Schumacher, Barb Lovett, Ryan Strieter |
| 10:30am Ushers | Joe Buss, Carl Klinger, Casey Martin, Mason Martin, Shawn Woller, Aaron Buss |



In a sermon to encourage believers to do good works, Martin Luther said:

You are to interpret all passages of Scripture which treat of works to mean that God would have us let the holiness we have received in faith shine forth by such good works, to prove itself, and be of benefit to others that false faith may be recognized and rooted out. God grants no one his grace that it should lie still and be of no further use. Rather he grants it in order to have it profitably employed and to have it attract everybody to God by its confession and public manifestation, as Christ says in Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before me that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Otherwise grace would be like a secret treasure and a hidden wisdom. Of what use are those?

What Luther Says, page 655



LIVING HOPE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Woodlawn Campus
2217 S. 99th Street
West Allis, Wisconsin 53227
www.woodlawnlutheran.org

| | | |
|--|--|--------------|
| Mark Aufdemberge, Pastor (Jor) | magld88@yahoo.com | 414-321-2126 |
| Ben Wessel, Pastor (WL) | bwessel@woodlawnlutheran.org | 414-321-2126 |
| Tom Kneser, Pastor (WL) | pastor.kneser@woodlawnlutheran.org | 414-321-2126 |
| Timothy Wempner, Pastor (GS) | twempner@goodshepherds.net. | 414-774-1184 |
| Joshua Zarling, Pastor (GS) | jzarling@goodshepherds.net | 414-774-1184 |
| Tim MacKain, Principal (LoG) | mackain@logls.org | 414-321-8780 |
| Michael Henning, Principal (GS) | mhenning@goodshepherds.net | 414-774-1184 |
| Mary Gasper, Church Secretary | mgasper@logls.org | 414-321-8780 |
| Shelly Nardi, Early Childcare (GS) | childcare@goodshepherds.net | 414-774-1184 |
| Mark Kuether, Cong. Pres. (LH) | markk@askpublishing.com | 262-227-7850 |