

**WORSHIP FOCUS**

*The Holy Ministry is filled with people whom God called out of his boundless mercy. Only mercy can explain the men he chose in this weekend's lessons: a despised tax collector, an exiled killer, a persecutor of Christians. How poignant these lessons are, when we remember that each lesson was penned by the unworthy minister called into service by God's boundless mercy!*

**THE SERVICE FOR TODAY**

**Common Service with Communion**

**WELS Connection**

**Opening Hymn – 385**

*Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine, I am his and he is mine!**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity,  
Love that found me-wondrous thought!-  
Found me when I sought him not.**

**Only Jesus can impart Comfort to a wounded heart:  
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.**

**Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me.  
All my wants to him are known; All my sorrows are his own.  
Safe with him in earthly strife, I await the heav'nly life.**

**Strengthen me, O gracious Lord,  
By your Spirit and your word.  
When my wayward heart would stray,  
Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.**

Text: William McComb, 1793-c. 1870, alt.

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:**   
C: A - men.


### CONFESSON OF SINS

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

### LORD, HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie*



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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 Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:**   
C: A - men.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



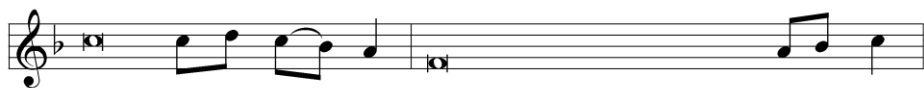
**C:** Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:**   
C: And al - so with you.

**M:** Let us pray together...

### **PRAYER of the DAY** (spoken together)

**O God, the strength of all who trust in you, mercifully hear our prayers. Be gracious to us in our weakness and give us strength to keep your commandments in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C:**   
C: A - men.

## THE WORD

### First Lesson

### **Exodus 3:7-15**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD said, "I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. <sup>8</sup>So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>Now indeed, the Israelites' cry for help has come to me. Yes, I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup>Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup>So he said, "I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup>But Moses said to God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what should I say to them?"

<sup>14</sup>So God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He also said, “You will say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.”

<sup>15</sup>God also told Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.’”

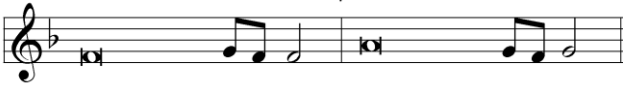
## **Psalm 119c**

### *Refrain*



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

### *Psalm tone*



Oh, how I love your law!\*  
I meditate on it all day long.

I have more insight than all my teachers,\*  
for I meditate on your statutes.

I have more understanding than the elders,\*  
for I obey your precepts.

### ***Refrain***

I have kept my feet from every evil path\*  
so that I might obey your Word.

I have not departed from your laws,\*  
for you yourself have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste,\*  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### ***Refrain***

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## Second Lesson

## 1 Timothy 1:12-17

<sup>12</sup>I give thanks to the one who empowered me, namely, Christ Jesus our Lord, that he treated me as trustworthy, appointing me into his ministry. <sup>13</sup>He did this even though formerly I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man. But I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief. <sup>14</sup>The grace of our Lord overflowed on me along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>This saying is trustworthy and worthy of full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," of whom I am the worst. <sup>16</sup>But I was shown mercy for this reason: that in me, the worst sinner, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his unlimited patience as an example for those who are going to believe in him, resulting in eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Now to the King eternal, to the immortal, invisible, only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Verse of the Day

*Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia.*  
(2 Corinthians 5:19)



## Gospel

## Matthew 9:9-13



<sup>9</sup>As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting in the tax collector's booth. He said to him, "Follow me." Matthew got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup>As Jesus was reclining at the table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners were actually there too, eating with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>12</sup>When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "The healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' In fact, I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."



## Apostle's 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.

### Hymn of the Day – 404      *Faith is a Living Power from Heaven*

Faith is a living pow'r from heav'n  
That grasps the promise God has giv'n,  
A trust that cannot be o'erthrown,  
Fixed heartily on Christ alone.

Faith finds in Christ whate'er we need  
To save or strengthen us indeed,  
Receiving grace from heaven's throne  
And humbly sharing cross and crown.

Faith in the Savior brings us peace  
And bids the mourner's weeping cease;  
By faith the children's place we claim  
And give all honor to one name.

We thank you, then, O God of heav'n,  
That you to us this faith have giv'n  
Through mighty Word and sacrament  
To trust the one whom you have sent.

As you have promised, grant each soul  
Its holy faith's true end and goal:  
The blessedness no foes destroy,  
Eternal love and light and joy.

Text: Petrus Herbert, d. 1571, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

## ***Jesus Shows Us a Good Doctor-Patient Relationship***

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of five staves of music in a single system, all written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The music is a simple, melodic line with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are: "C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men."

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

### **Prayer of the Church**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

#### **Closing Hymn – 596**

*Let Me Be Yours Forever*

**Let me be yours forever, My faithful God and Lord;  
Let me forsake you never Nor wander from your Word.  
Lord, do not let me waver But give me steadfastness,  
And for such grace and favor Your holy name I'll bless.**



**Lord Jesus, my salvation, My light, my life divine,  
My only consolation, To you I all resign,  
For you have dearly bought me With blood and bitter pain.  
Let me, since you have sought me, Eternal life obtain.**

**O gracious Holy Spirit, My comforter and guide,  
Grant that in Jesus' merit I always may confide,  
Him to the end confessing Whom I have known by faith.  
Give me your constant blessing And grant a Christian death.**

Text: Nikolaus Selnecker, 1532-92, st. 1; *Gesangbuch*, Rudolstadt, 1688, st. 2-3;  
tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.

**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:**   
C: A - men.

**M:** 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:**   
C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

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## **SERVING US TODAY**

**Preacher** – Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel

**Organist** – Dee Ann Techlin