

That Which Does Give Life

The Word works! The Word of God is our only source of everlasting life. Through Isaiah, God explains that His Word is as effective as rain causing growth in plants. As David writes poetically, His care causes all the trees of the field to clap their hands. And the Word will work in our lives so that we will “go out in joy and be led forth in peace,” as Isaiah puts it. Indeed, Jesus, the Word in the flesh, succeeded in giving us peace and joy by rising victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil. As a result, Paul explains in the Epistle, we are God’s adopted children, calling out to Him, “Abba, Father.” But there is work for us to do! As we let the Word work through us, we can expect that, in spite of opposition of all sorts from the world, if we but hear and understand, we will certainly bear fruit for our heavenly Father.

We Call Upon the Name of the Lord

L In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Opening Hymn: Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

LSB 868

1 Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

3 All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept
And hast refreshed me while I slept;
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake,
I may of endless light partake.

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Call for Confession

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

G who made heaven and earth.

L I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

G and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

L In the today’s Epistle, Paul reminds us that “the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Let us therefore go to our gracious heavenly Father, confessing our sins.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

L In the Old Testament Reading, God promises, “My word . . . shall not return to Me empty; it shall accomplish . . . and shall succeed.”

G But we do not trust You in all things. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us, heavenly Father.

L Then God tells us, “You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace.”

G But we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. Hear us, free us, and lead us in paths pleasing to You, heavenly Father.

L In the Gospel, our Lord explains that “the one who hears the word and understands it . . . bears fruit.” By the grace of God, we believe and understand that Jesus, the Word of God in the flesh, succeeded in destroying death and rising victorious for us. For His sake, God forgives us and uses us to bear fruit for Him. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Word planted inside you produce a great harvest for our gracious Lord.

G Amen. Thanks be to God!

Lord, Have Mercy

L O Lord,

G have mercy on us.

L O Christ,

G have mercy on us.

L O Lord,

G have mercy on us, and give us Your peace. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: Thy Strong Word

LSB 578

1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

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Greeting

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- L** Let us pray.

Gracious God, who has given us this good earth in which to live and who sends rain and sun to cause plants to produce fruit and grain for harvest,

- C** continue to send Your life-giving Word to us so that we resist the cares of this world and return to You a harvest of new sons and daughters,
- L** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

+ God Speaks to Us Through His Word +

God Speaks to Us Through His Prophet

- L** The Old Testament Reading is from the fifty-fifth chapter of Isaiah.

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

- C** so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- L** “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

- C** Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through His Apostle

Romans 8:12–17

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of

God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

God Speaks to Us Through His Son

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

“Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day: Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

LSB 577

1 **Almighty God, Your Word is cast**

Like seed into the ground;

Now let the dew of heav’n descend

And righteous fruits abound.

4 **So when the precious seed is sown,**

Life-giving grace bestow

That all whose souls the truth receive

Its saving pow’r may know.

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God Speaks to Us Through Our Elder Tom Schmidt

Catechism

Explanation of the Third Article

C **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

We Worship God with our Offerings – Collected Online or at the Door

(Our offerings give us an opportunity to give thanks to God for the many ways He has blessed us. Members and regular attendees support God’s mission and ministry as He works through this congregation. Guests are welcome to give an offering, but are not expected to do so. Psalm 54:6; 116:12-14, 17)

Offertory Hymn: On What Has Now Been Sown

LSB 921

1 On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

2 To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

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Prayer of the Church

L We use today's psalm as we pray for the Church around the world and all people in their various circumstance.

David writes, "O You who hears prayer, to You shall all flesh come." Let us pray for those near and dear to us, [*especially* . . .], who call to God in their distress.

C Heavenly Father, visit, relieve, restore, and console them in Your mercy, and use us to help meet their needs.

L David writes, "When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions." Let us pray for all who are wrongly accused or imprisoned by corrupt court systems.

C Lord of the nations, give them justice, clear their names, and free them; move governments to make reforms where they are needed.

L And let us pray for those who have acted rashly, destroyed relationships, or run afoul of civil laws.

C Lord Jesus, provide them opportunities and faithful counselors that they hear of Your mercy, repent, and repair their broken lives.

L David writes, "We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple." Let us pray for the Church here and around the world.

C O Holy Spirit, bless, protect, and guide Your people as they proclaim the Gospel, and invite one and all to the joys of Your mercy, forgiveness, and love.

L David writes, "By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness." Let us pray for all who make, administer, and adjudicate their nation's laws and seek peace across borders, and for all who serve their communities and nations by putting themselves in harm's way.

C Lord Jesus, raise up good and righteous people in positions of power, and give protection and courage to those having to make sudden decisions.

L David writes, "You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it." Let us pray for all who tend the soil, transport crops, and distribute food where it is needed.

C Gracious God, send rain and sun to farms, protection to pilots and drivers, and guidance for those who manage markets; through their efforts grant that all the hungry be fed.

L David writes, "You crown the year with Your bounty." Let us pray for those who are unemployed or underemployed, those who lack adequate clothing or shelter, and all burdened with financial debt.

C O Holy Spirit, open doors of opportunity so that they may provide for themselves and their families, rejoicing in all Your good gifts.

L Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

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.

Final Blessing

- L** You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”
- G** **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.**

- L** Our heavenly Father, His ✠ Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and the Holy Spirit bless us and keep us now and forever.
- G** Amen.

Closing Hymn: Almighty Father, Bless the Word

LSB 923

- 1 **Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!**
- 3 **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

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Sending

- L** As we continue this day, let us remember our mission is....
- G** **Making an eternal impact today through the love of Jesus Christ.**

Acknowledgments

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