

The Third Sunday after Epiphany - January 26, 2025

383 The Only Son from Heaven

CW 383

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 172

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.

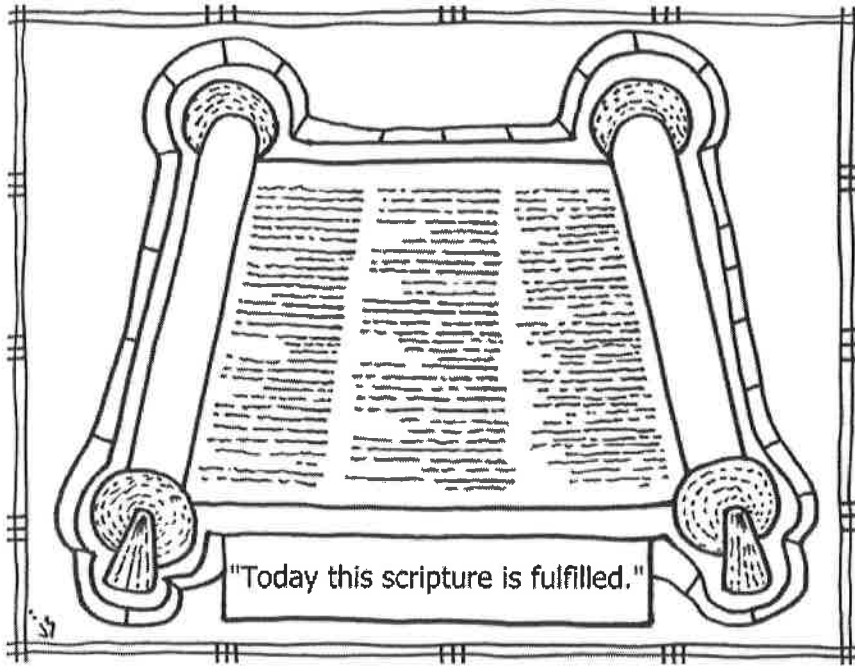
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



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Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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

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.
Lord, have mercy.

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

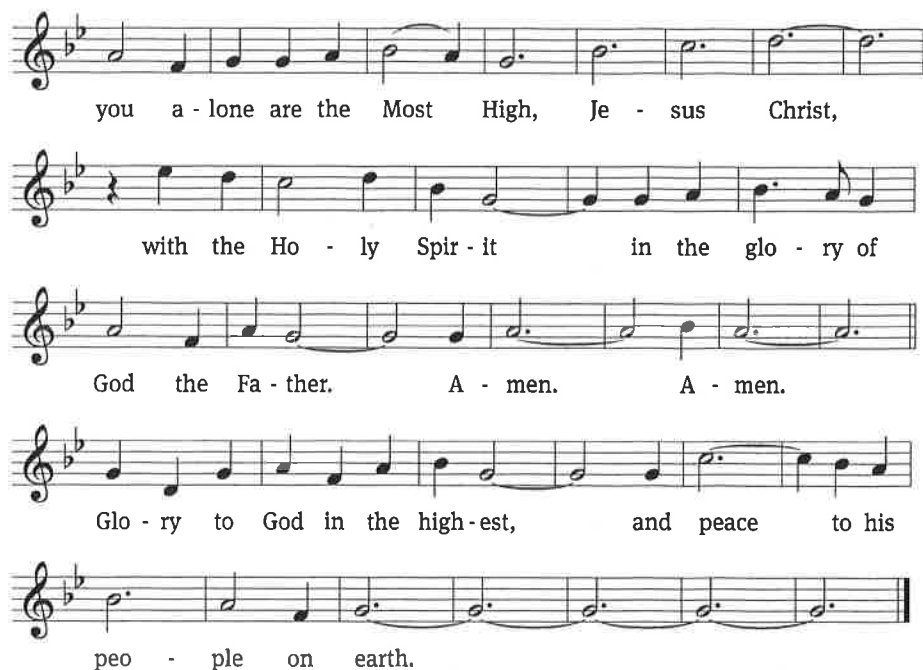
CW 176



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,



Tune: Marty Haugen

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The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; 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 61:1-6

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.

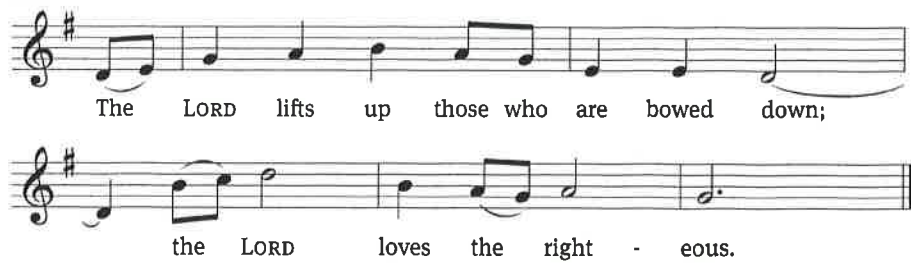
⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.
⁵Strangers will shepherd your flocks;
foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.
⁶And you will be called priests of the LORD,
you will be named ministers of our God.
You will feed on the wealth of nations,
and in their riches you will boast.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

146A I Will Praise the Lord All My Life

Psalm 146A

Refrain



Tone



I will praise the LORD / all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live.
Do not put your trust in / princes,
in human beings, who / cannot save.
Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob,
whose hope is in the / LORD their God. *Refrain*

He upholds the cause of / the oppressed
and gives food to the / hungry.
The LORD sets / pris'ners free,
the LORD gives sight / to the blind.
The LORD reigns for- / ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the LORD.
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: Henry V. Gerike
Setting: Henry V. Gerike
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Second Reading

Acts 4:23-31

²³On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.
²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

" 'Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
²⁶The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.'

²⁷Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

¹⁶He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

²¹He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

²³Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

²⁴“Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

²⁸All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Sermon: Isaiah 61:1-3 Proclaim the Year of the Lord’s Favor

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

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.
Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Amen.

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.**

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.

Together

NEWS. RESOURCES. ENCOURAGEMENT.



Annual informal talks with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) held

For the last 12 years, representatives of WELS, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), and the LCMS have been involved in informal doctrinal discussions. An informal doctrinal discussion is one that addresses matters of doctrine and practice but does not imply that doctrinal agreement and a restoration of fellowship is imminent*. The most recent meeting took place in early December 2024.

Over the years, these discussions have proven to be beneficial and productive. We have spent much time identifying the many areas in which all three synods are in perfect agreement. For example, we are agreed that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God. We are in agreement that the Lutheran Confessions are a true and faithful summary of the teachings of Scripture. We all stand firmly on the four great “alones” of the Reformation: salvation by grace alone, by faith alone, by Scripture alone, by Christ alone. All three synods officially confess that Communion is to be “closed Communion,” shared only with those who confess a common faith. We all believe in the sanctity of human life, in God’s design for marriage and sexuality, and that God has directed that only men serve as pastors. The list could go on.

We have also had the opportunity to dispel caricatures and false assumptions that we have had about one another’s doctrinal positions and how those doctrines are applied and practiced.

Another benefit has been that these talks have opened lines of communication between our synods that were not open before. We have spoken publicly with one voice about the principle of religious freedom. Our mission boards speak to one another about plans and provide advice on specific issues. A procedure has been put in place as to how to communicate with each other when a pastor or teacher decides to leave one synod and join the other.

And there are, of course, discussions about the several doctrinal issues in which we are not in full agreement. We have spent much time talking about church and ministry, fellowship, and the role of men and women in the church. While we have found that the differences in some of these areas are not as great as we might have thought, we still recognize that differences remain.

We all pray that God would use these talks to bring about full unity someday. Until then, there are many good reasons to continue these discussions.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

**WELS and the ELS share doctrinal fellowship with one another, but do not share fellowship with the LCMS.*

Stay connected to WELS mission and ministry:  [WELSlutherans](#)  [WELSlutherans](#)
WELS offers a variety of devotions and newsletters that can be directly delivered to your inbox. Visit wels.net/subscribe.



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit
wels.net/together.

RECOVERY IN CHRIST offers hope in Jesus.

A symptom of addiction of any kind is hopelessness. The focus of Recovery in Christ is to bring the hope of Jesus. RIC meets most Sundays at 4:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wisconsin (school library) and Wednesdays, 1:15 pm at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center, 933 Ferry Street. To confirm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays, 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.

Recovery in Christ is not meant to replace other groups or therapists. It is an additional group that offers Christian fellowship and direction to those in recovery from alcohol and/or drugs.

NEED A CARD? Why go to a big box store and spend more than you have to? Please browse our wide selection of cards in the former library room at Christ. Cards are exceptionally priced at \$0.50 each.

Diane Schultz is our sunshine lady. If anyone knows of someone who would like a card of encouragement, please let her know. Her cellphone is 608-738-9934 and her home phone is 608-685-3861.

Church Offerings

Wednesday, January 15: 9

General: \$145 Missions: \$ Cap Imp.: \$

Sunday, January 19: 31

General: \$760 Missions: \$75 Cap Imp: \$50

(General included a memorial for Kathy Huber)

Total: \$1030

General: \$905 Missions: \$75 Cap Imp.: \$50

Our Weekly Walk with Jesus

Sunday, January 26

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour

Monday, January 27

Tuesday, January 28

10:00 am Bible class

6:30 pm Bible class

Wednesday, January 29

6:30 pm Midweek Worship Service with Communion

Thursday, January 30

Friday, January 31

Saturday, February 1

Sunday, February 2

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class

9:30 am Worship Service with Communion

10:30 am Coffee hour

10:40 am Annual Voters' Meeting