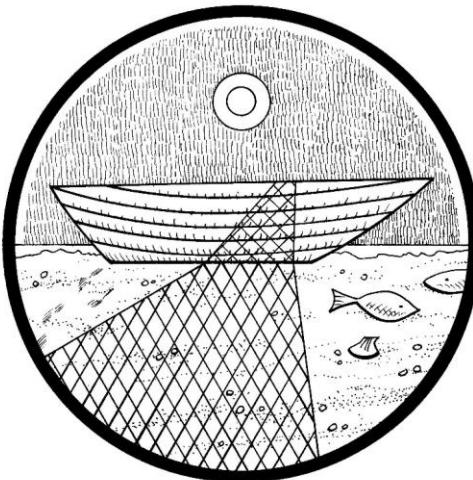


St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 25, 2026
9:30 a.m.



412 The People That in Darkness Sat

1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -

light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul-der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The

shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

△ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the **+** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

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

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

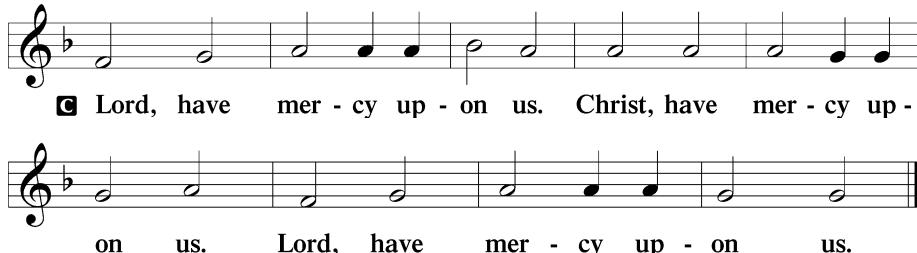
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **+** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Kyrie



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

Gloria in Excelsis



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy 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,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-on us.
 For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
 C And with thy spir - it.
 P Let us pray.

P Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia & Verse

The congregation sings the alleluias before and after the proper verse.

C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Verse: From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:12–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness

have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life  of the world to come. Amen.

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
 2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
 3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
 4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
 5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with

those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
 lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
 find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
 wan - d'rous to Your fold. U - nite all those who
 won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to

hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
 in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
 sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
 walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
 You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg

Sermon

Offertory

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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Offering

Music During the Offering

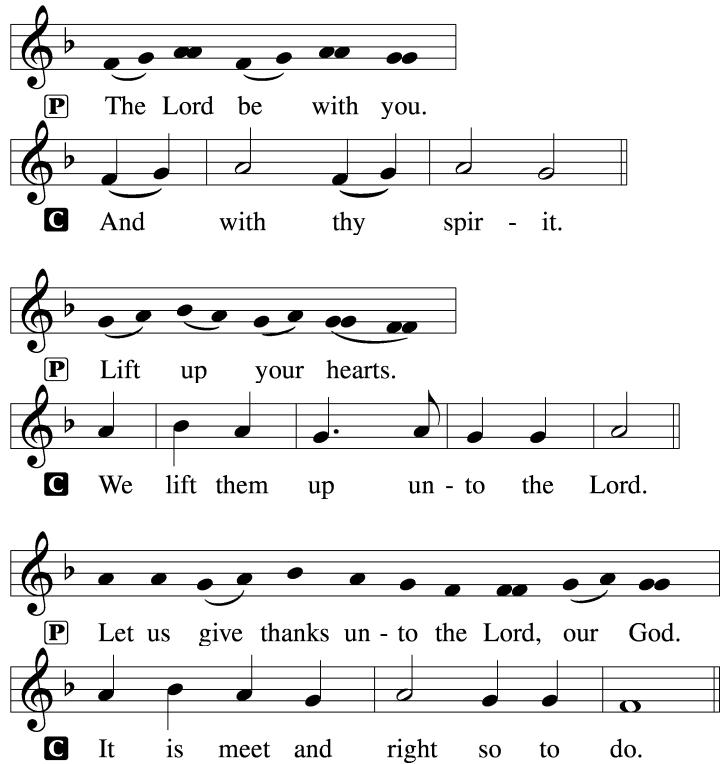
We Praise You and Acknowledge You

Melody by Gustav Holst

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

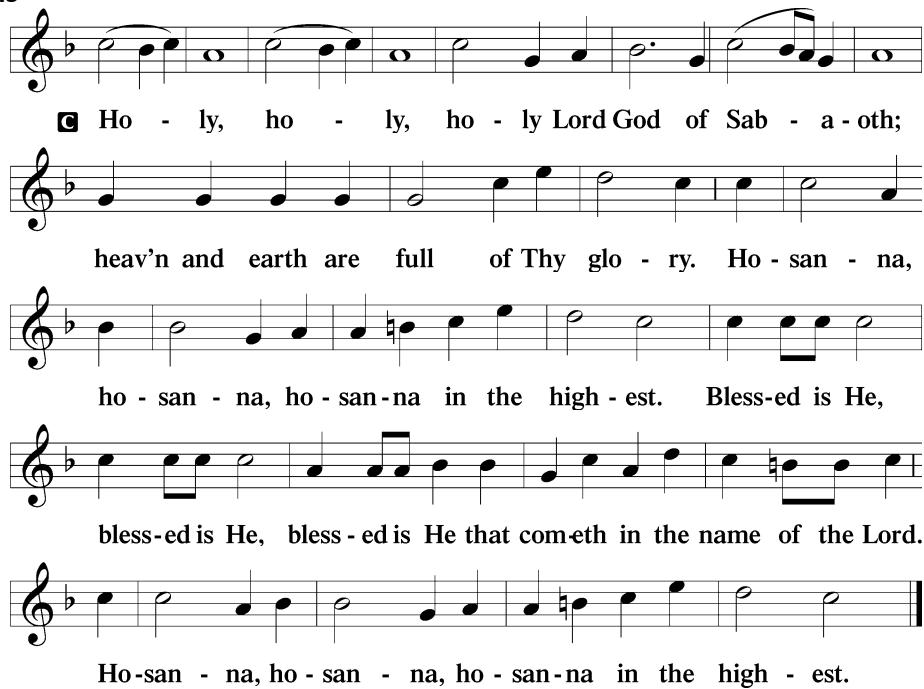
Preface



The Lord be with you.
And with thy spir - it.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up un - to the Lord.
Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.
It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \ddagger body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \ddagger blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



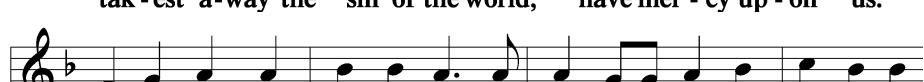
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



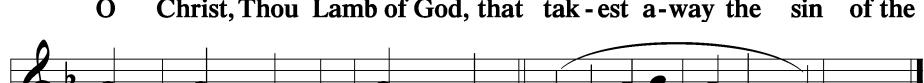
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

941 We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God



1 We praise You and ac - knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
 2 The band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your praise;
 3 You, Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
 4 You sit in splen - did glo - ry, en-throned at God's right hand,



The Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by all the earth a - dored.
 The fel - low - ship of proph - ets their death-less voic - es raise.
 Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res - cue ev - 'ry - one:
 Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by forc - es You com - mand.



To You all an - gel pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav - ens sing,
 The mar - tyrs of Your king - dom, a great and no - ble throng,
 You laid a - side Your glo - ry, were born of vir - gin's womb,
 We know that You will come as our Judge that fi - nal day,



The cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim their prais - es to You bring:
 Sing with the ho - ly Church through - out all the world this song:
 Were cru - ci - fied for us and were placed in - to a tomb;
 So help Your ser - vants You have re - deemed by blood, we pray;



"O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 "O all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your true and on - ly Son,
 Then by Your res - ur - rec - tion You won for us re - prieve -
 May we with saints be num - bered where prais - es nev - er end,



Your maj - es - ty and glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!"
 And Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er - for - ev - er Three in One!"
 You o - pened heav - en's king - dom to all who would be - lieve.
 In glo - ry ev - er - last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934, alt.
 Text: © 1999 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001620

395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
 2 Come, heav'n - ly Bride - groom, Light di - vine, And deep with - in
 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 our hearts now shine; There light a flame un - dy - ing!
 from God a - bove A ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 Our voices gladly blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
 The Lord we love is first and last,
 The end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 Transport us to that happy place
 Beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
 For the day of Your returning!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001620

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677-1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr. Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001620

Nunc Dimittis

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

A Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

Stanza 5

△ 5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,

Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -

dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Music During the Distribution

God Loves Me Dearly

The text is found at *LSB 392*.



Preacher
Celebrant
Assistants

Rev. Peter C. Cage
Rev. Joe Hoem

Seminarians Jon Pietrowski, Jeff Hoening, and Stefan Jensen

Musicians

Rev. Dr. John Nordling

Kantor Kevin Hildebrand, organist

St. Paul's Student Choirs, Kantor Ann Fritz, director
St. Paul's Middle School Band, Mrs. Andrea Machemer, director

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God's People at Prayer

"TAKE-ALONG FOR HOME DEVOTIONS"

Readings from Holy Scripture

The following can be read in the morning and evening, as suggested here, or in any way that best works with your schedule.

Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Sunday Zech 1:1–21	Rom 14:1–23
Monday Zech 2:1–3:10	Rom 15:1–13
Tuesday Zech 4:1–5:11	Rom 15:14–33
Wednesday Zech 6:1–7:14	Rom 16:17–27
Thursday Zech 8:1–23	2 Tim 1:1–18
Friday Zech 9:1–17	2 Tim 2:1–26
Saturday Zech 10:1–11:3	2 Tim 3:1–18

Small Catechism

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Large Catechism

Meanwhile, a necessary but comforting clause is added, "as we forgive our debtors." God has promised us assurance that everything is forgiven and pardoned, yet on the condition that we also forgive our neighbor. Inasmuch as we sin greatly against God everyday and yet he forgives it all through grace, we must always forgive our neighbor who does us harm, violence, and injustice, bears malice toward us, etc. If you do not forgive, do not think that God forgives you. But if you forgive, you have the comfort and assurance that you are forgiven in heaven. Not on account of your forgiving, for God does it altogether freely, out of pure grace, because he has promised it, as the Gospel teaches. But he has set up this condition for our strengthening and assurance as a sign along with the promise which is in agreement with this petition, Luke 6:37, "Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

For Next Sunday

Micah 6:1–8; 1 Corinthians 1:18–31; Matthew 5:1–12

Daily Prayer

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayer for Others and Ourselves

For each day of the week, let the following topics guide your prayer. Also include members from the congregation as listed under "Intercessions and Thanksgivings" on the insert sheet.

Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.

Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

Wednesday: For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

Lord's Prayer

Final Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in all time of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Hymn

How can Your pardon reach and bless

The unforgiving heart

That broods on wrongs and will not let

Old bitterness depart?

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls

And bid resentment cease;

Then, bound to all in bonds of love,

Our lives will spread Your peace. (LSB 843:2, 4)