

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

THE BIBLE – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

GOD – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

MAN – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

SIN – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

REDEMPTION – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

FAITH – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

THE CHURCH – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

SACRAMENTS – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Communicants believing this word of promise receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

RESURRECTION – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

INTROIT

Psalm 13:3-5; Antiphon: Psalm 13:6

*I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.
Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.*

**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.**

*I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.*

P *O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C *♪[Amen]♪*

GRADUAL

Psalm 117:1-2a; Psalm 96:8

*Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *Lord, in Your mercy,*
C **hear our prayer.**

Next Week's Readings from God's Word:

February 11: The Transfiguration of our Lord
2 Kings 2:1-12 or Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 50:1-6 (v.2);
2 Corinthians 3:12-13 (14-18), 4:1-6; Mark 9:2-9

Isaiah 40:21-31 (ESV)

²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear?
Has it not been told you from the
beginning?

Have you not understood from the
foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of
the earth,
and its inhabitants are like
grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a
curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to dwell
in;

²³ who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as
emptiness.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely
sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in
the earth,
when he blows on them, and they
wither,
and the tempest carries them off like
stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare
me,
that I should be like him? says the
Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?

He who brings out their host by
number,
calling them all by name,
by the greatness of his might,
and because he is strong in power
not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my
God?”

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not
heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he
increases strength.

³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be
weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹ but they who wait for the LORD
shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like
eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

1 Corinthians 9:16-27 (ESV)

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, that
gives me no ground for boasting. For
necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me
if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I
do this of my own will, I have a
reward, but if not of my own will, I am
still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸
What then is my reward? That in my
preaching I may present the gospel
free of charge, so as not to make full
use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I
have made myself a servant to all, that
I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the
Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win
Jews. To those under the law I became
as one under the law (though not being
myself under the law) that I might win
those under the law. ²¹ To those outside
the law I became as one outside the
law (not being outside the law of God
but under the law of Christ) that I
might win those outside the law. ²² To
the weak I became weak, that I might
win the weak. I have become all things
to all people, that by all means I might
save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of

the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Mark 1:29-39 (ESV)

²⁹ And immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹ And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷ and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸ And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 40:21–31

1 Corinthians 9:16–27

Mark 1:29–39

The Son of God, Christ Jesus, Makes Us a New Creation

The Lord alone "*is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth*" (Is. 40:28). He "*sits above the circle of the earth*" and "*stretches out the heavens like a curtain*" (Is. 40:22). Yet, His almighty power is demonstrated chiefly by His mercy and compassion. "*He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength*" (Is. 40:29). The only-begotten Son of the Father, the very Word by whom all things were made, becomes flesh and takes all the poverty and weakness of our sin and death upon Himself, bearing it in His Body to the Cross. As He dies for us there, He also raises us up, a new creation, in His Resurrection from the dead. Thus, by the preaching of this Word, He heals "*many who were sick with various diseases,*" and He casts out "*many demons*" (Mark 1:34, 39). And His preaching continues through those whom He has sent, who are "*entrusted with a stewardship*" to "*preach the Gospel*" (1 Cor. 9:16–17). Thus we are set free by the Word of Christ, and we exercise our freedom in loving service to others.