

## 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. Believing communicants 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).

# Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2023

## INTROIT

*Psalm 19:1-4a,b; Antiphon: Psalm 19:14*

*Let the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

*The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

*Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.*

*There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.*

*Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.*

**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.**

*Let the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** *Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**G** **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,*

**G** **hear our prayer.**

*Next Week's Readings from God's Word:*

January 22: Third Sunday after Epiphany (A)

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-14 (v.1); 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25

## Isaiah 49:1-7 (ESV)

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
and give attention, you peoples from  
afar.

The LORD called me from the  
womb,  
from the body of my mother he  
named my name.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a  
sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, “You are  
my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

<sup>4</sup> But I said, “I have labored in  
vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing  
and vanity;  
yet surely my right is with the  
LORD,  
and my recompense with my God.”

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says,  
he who formed me from the womb to  
be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him;  
and that Israel might be gathered to  
him—

for I am honored in the eyes of  
the LORD,  
and my God has become my  
strength—

<sup>6</sup> he says:

“It is too light a thing that you  
should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to bring back the preserved of  
Israel;

I will make you as a light for  
the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the  
end of the earth.”

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD,

the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy  
One,

to one deeply despised,  
abhorred by the nation,  
the servant of rulers:

“Kings shall see and arise;  
princes, and they shall prostrate  
themselves;

because of the LORD, who is  
faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has  
chosen you.”

## 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (ESV)

Paul, called by the will of God to be an  
apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother  
Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in  
Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ  
Jesus, called to be saints together with  
all those who in every place call upon  
the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God  
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for  
you because of the grace of God that  
was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in  
every way you were enriched in him in  
all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> even  
as the testimony about Christ was  
confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you  
are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as  
you wait for the revealing of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to  
the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord  
Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by  
whom you were called into the  
fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

## John 1:29-42 (ESV)

<sup>29</sup> The next day [John] saw Jesus  
coming toward him, and said,  
“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes

away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’” <sup>34</sup> And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this,

and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

## THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 49:1–7

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

John 1:29–42a

### *God Reveals His Glory in Christ and His Cross*

“*The Lord, the Redeemer of Israel*” calls forth “*His Holy One*” (Is. 49:7), Jesus, the Christ, “*from the womb*” of His Mother (Is. 49:1). The Incarnate Son of God is revealed as the Savior, not only for Israel, but also “*as a light for the nations*” whose salvation reaches “*to the ends of the earth*” (Is. 49:6). John came “*baptizing with water*” (John 1:31) to reveal Jesus as “*the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29) and who glorifies His God and Father by His atoning sacrifice upon the Cross. When Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended “*from heaven like a dove*” and “*remained on Him*” (John 1:32). By our Baptism, we are anointed by the same Spirit, adopted by God the Father, and “*called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ*” (1 Cor. 1:9). Therefore, we “*are not lacking in any spiritual gift,*” but we can trust Him who promises to sustain us to the end, “*guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Cor. 1:7–8).