

**SIXTH SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY  
FEBRUARY 12, 2023  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**Missouri Synod**



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**[https://www.facebook.com/  
LutheranMercedes/](https://www.facebook.com/LutheranMercedes/)**

**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor  
956.463.1305  
eweber10@aol.com**

**Website:  
lutheranmercedes.  
com**

***Sunday*  
9:00 A.M.**

**Worship Service**

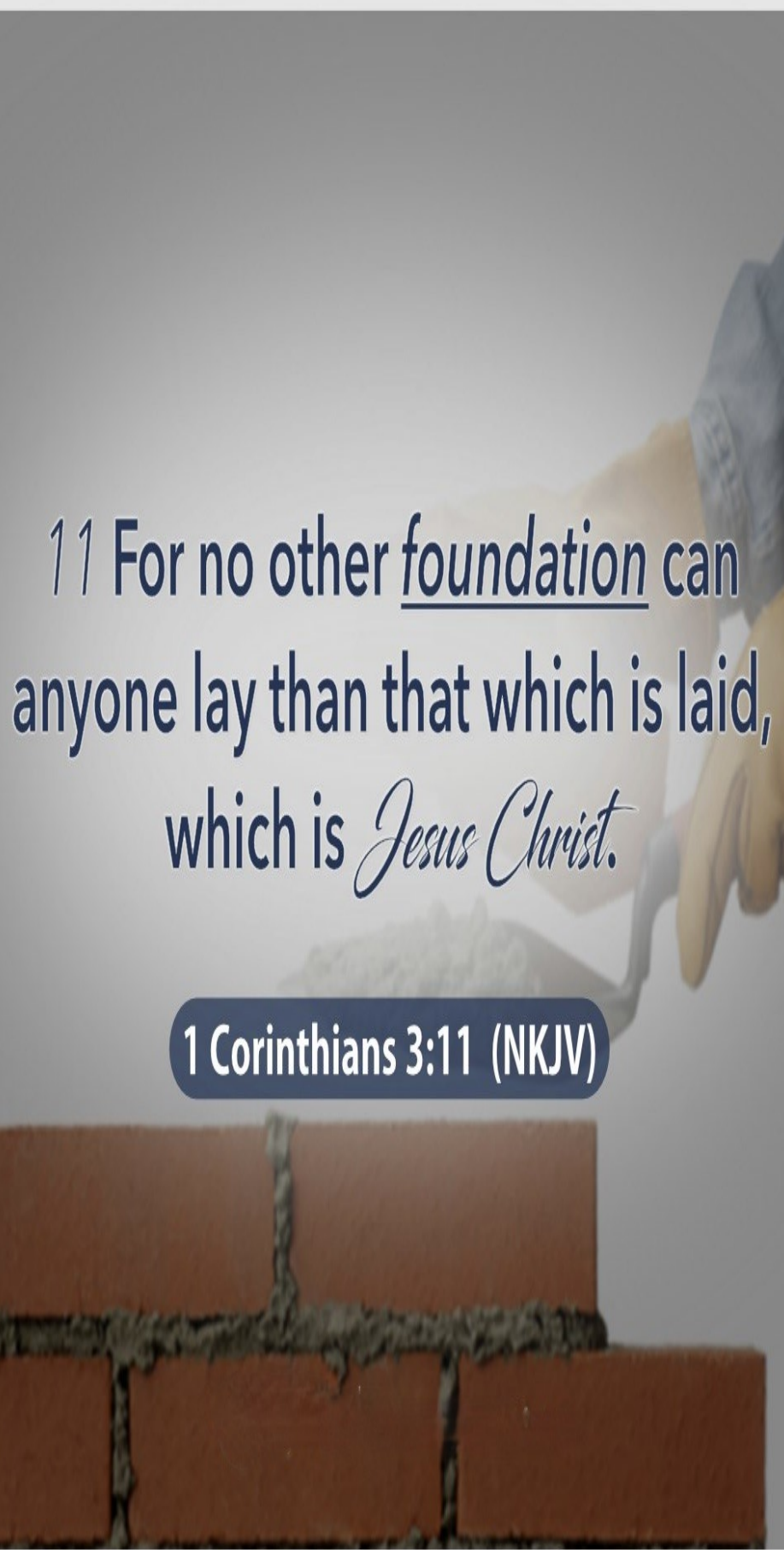
**10:30 a.m.**

**Adult Bible Class &  
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**Website:  
Misionemanuel.com**

**Office Hrs, M-F  
8 am to 12 pm  
CCLI # 2585510**



**11 For no other foundation can  
anyone lay than that which is laid,  
which is *Jesus Christ*.**

**1 Corinthians 3:11 (NKJV)**

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**FEBRUARY 12, 2023**

**WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

Next week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

**A Prayer Upon Entering Church** - Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for my learning. Grant that I may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, I may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**AS WE GATHER** - What is the Fifth Commandment? Answer: You shall not murder. You are right. But what does this mean? The disciples needed a little review in today's Gospel. So do we, for its meaning is deeper and more pervasive than we may think. When it comes to matters of the Christian faith and life, we never know it all or remember God's Word consistently. Remember Martin Luther's comment about those who would read the catechism once and then throw it in a corner as if they had already mastered it. Yet he who put it together, though he had advanced academic degrees, knew he needed to study God's Word over and over again. God's Word doesn't change, but we do. New challenges,

new situations in life call for new insight and continuous instruction in God's living Word.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

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### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Choose Life*

Steve Wiggins

*(A quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship)*

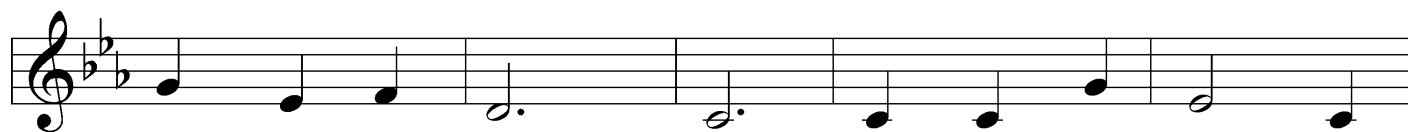
### OPENING HYMN

*Built on the Rock*

LSB 645



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when  
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most



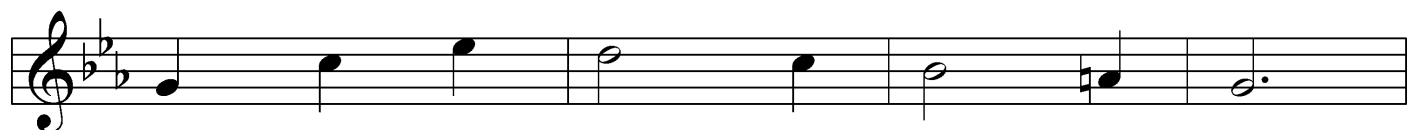
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in  
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His



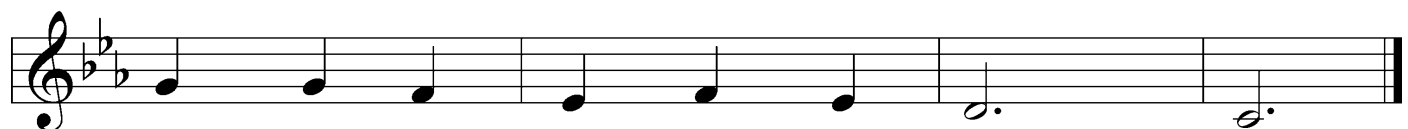
ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -  
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,  
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,  
Choos - es to live with us in love,



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.  
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.

Continue on next page 3

- 3 We are God's house of living stones,  
Built for His own habitation.  
He through baptismal grace us owns  
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.  
Were we but two His name to tell,  
Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
With all His grace and His favor.
- 4 Here stands the font before our eyes,  
Telling how God has received us.  
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice  
And what His Supper here gives us.  
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim  
Christ yesterday, today, the same,  
And evermore, our Redeemer.
- 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,  
That, when the church bells are ringing,  
Many in saving faith may come  
Where Christ His message is bringing:  
"I know My own; My own know Me.  
You, not the world, My face shall see.  
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

Public domain

*Please stand*

## **INVOCATION**

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**  
(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

- 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 +

**INTROIT** *Psalm 98:7–9; antiphon: v. 2*

**P** The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

**C** **Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell in it;**

**P** Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together

**C** **before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.**

**P** The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

## KYRIE



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with your spirit.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**    *Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

(The offer of life or death)

15 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

P    This is the Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**            *Psalms 119:1–8; antiphon: v. 1*

(Seek and follow the Lord.)

P    Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord!

**C    Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!**

P    They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways.

**C    You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently.**

P    Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes!

**C    Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all Your**

## **commandments.**

**P** I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments.

**C** **I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly!**

**P** Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord!

**EPISTLE**                    *1 Corinthians 3:1–23*

(The Church and her leaders)

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? 4 For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

9 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.



16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; 20 and

again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." 21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are

yours: 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are

yours. 23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## ALLELUIA and VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21–37

(The heart of the Law revealed)

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire. 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

27 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

31 “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.

33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ 34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall

you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

*Please sit*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

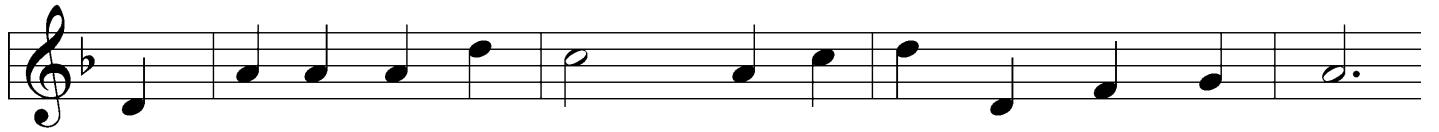
### *If God Himself Be for Me*

**LSB 724; vs. 1,2,4,5,10**

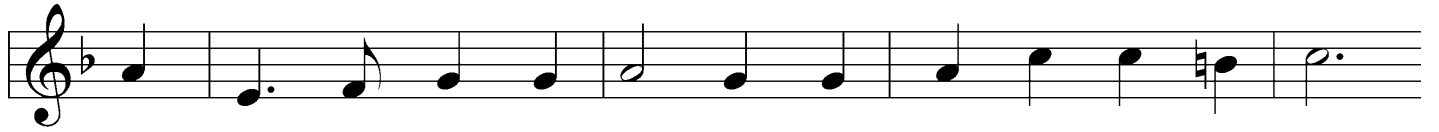
1 If God Him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;  
For when I pray, be - fore me My foes, con - found - ed, fly.  
If Christ, my head and mas - ter, Be - friend me from a - bove,  
What foe or what dis - as - ter Can drive me from His love?



2 I build on this foun - da - tion, That Je - sus and His blood



A - lone are my sal - va - tion, My true, e - ter - nal good.



With - out Him all that pleas - es Is val - ue - less on earth;



The gifts I have from Je - sus A - lone have price - less worth.

4 He canceled my offenses,  
Delivered me from death;  
He is the Lord who cleanses  
My soul from sin through faith.  
In Him I can be cheerful,  
Courageous on my way;  
In Him I am not fearful  
Of God's great Judgment Day.

5 For no one can condemn me  
Or set my hope aside;  
Now hell no more can claim me:  
Its fury I deride.  
No sentence now reproves me,  
No guilt destroys my peace;  
For Christ, my Savior, loves me  
And shields me with His grace.

10 My heart with joy is springing;  
I am no longer sad.  
My soul is filled with singing;  
Your sunshine makes me glad.  
The sun that cheers my spirit  
Is Jesus Christ, my King;



**this hour.**

P Bless Your holy Church throughout the world and guide and direct all nations and kingdoms among men.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.

**C Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days.**

P In the forgiveness of our sins and as Your own children by our Baptism into Christ, give to all in need healing for the sick, restoration to the broken, confidence to those without hope, and peace to all in trouble.

Cure Your children's warring madness; Bend our pride to Your control; Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.

**C Grant us wisdom, grant us courage lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.**

P Remembering all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, especially the prophets and apostles and martyrs of old as well as those nearer to us whom we name before You in our hearts, help us to continue walking in faith to Your glory and our salvation.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the gift of Your salvation be our glory evermore.

**C Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving You whom we adore.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**      *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

**All**      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.**

**BENEDICAMUS**

**P**      Let us bless the Lord.

**C**      **Thanks be to God.**

**BENEDICTION**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**P**      The LORD bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

**C**      **Amen.**

*Please sit*

**SENDING HYMN**

*The Church's One Foundation*

**LSB 644**



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.  
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;  
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,  
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.  
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union  
With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won.  
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!  
Lord, save us by Your grace  
That we, like saints before us,  
May see You face to face.



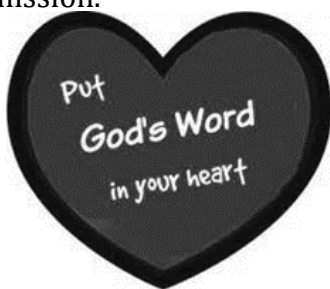
## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

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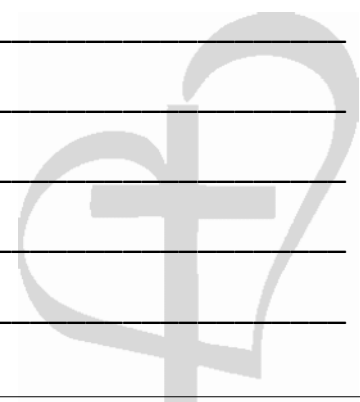
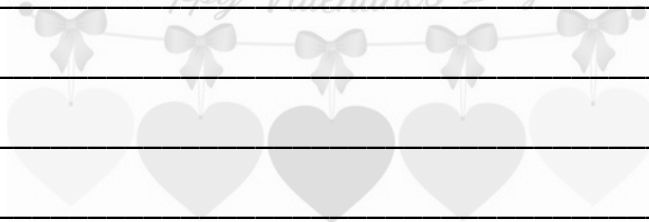


*Blessed are the undefiled in  
the way, who walk in the law of  
the Lord. Blessed are they that  
keep his testimonies, and that  
seek him with the whole heart.*

*Psalms 119:1-2*

**Sermon Notes:**

*Happy Valentine's Day*



The LCMS invites everyone to join together in memorizing a verse each week.

**This week's memory verse:**     *James 4:17*

*So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is*

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

*Portals of Prayer January to March 2023 are available in the Narthex or office.*

*Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.  
Rev. Goetz will be leading the class.*

## *FEBRUARY Activities*

*Ladies' Dinner/Bible Study  
Thursday, February 16, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.  
(free will donation)*

*BBQ Chicken leg quarter and sausage Plate  
with rice, beans, potato salad, bread, jalapeño, soda or water  
Friday, February 17th (ready by noon and delivery if needed)  
\$ 10.50 per plate  
(sponsored by Thrivent Action Team)*

*Ash Wednesday  
Wednesday, February 22, 2023  
Soup Supper @ 5:00 p.m.  
Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:00 p.m.  
Soup Supper Sign-up Sheet in Kitchen*

*Men's Steak Dinner and Bible Study  
Thursday, February 23, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.  
(free will donation)*

**2/5/2023**

<b>Sunday Worship</b>	<b>70</b>	
Plate		\$ 580.00
Envelopes		\$ 1,243.00
Donation: on-line		\$ 500.00
BB field & other		\$ 1,750.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$ 4,073.00</b>
<b>Bible Class:</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$ 27.00</b>

## *The Transfiguration of Our Lord Readings:*

*Exodus 24:8-18  
Psalm 2:6-12  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9*

## Christ Sets Life Before Us so that We Can Walk in His Ways

The God who reveals Himself in His incarnate Son promises life and blessing to all who obey His commandments “by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules” (Deut. 30:16). However, we are “people of the flesh” and “infants in Christ” (1 Cor. 3:1), among whom “there is jealousy and strife” (1 Cor. 3:3). Jesus must instruct us against the human ways of anger, adultery, divorce and false witness (Matt. 5:21–37), because all who live in these ways “shall surely perish” (Deut. 30:18). On the cross, He died to forgive our sins and free us from the ways of curse and death. Since Jesus Christ is our “life and length of days” (Deut. 30:20), we can be reconciled to our brother, live in chastity and marital faithfulness, and speak with honesty. He who serves from His cross also offers His gift of reconciliation at His altar, and we can be at peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are “God’s field, God’s building” (1 Cor. 3:9).

<b>Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule</b>	
<b>February Sunday Servants</b>	
Elder:	Earl Neuhaus
Altar Guild:	Suzanne Wehling
Music:	Doris Pickering
<b>This Week</b>	<i>Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</i>
Usher:	Ken Eilers
Sunday:	Worship Service <span style="float: right;">9:00 am</span>
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study <span style="float: right;">10:30 am</span>
<b>Next Week</b>	<i>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>
Usher:	Don Vogel
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service <span style="float: right;">9:00 am</span>
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study <span style="float: right;">10:30 am</span>