

# Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Hillsboro, Texas

**YOU ARE MY  
ROCK  
AND MY**

**PSALM 71:3**



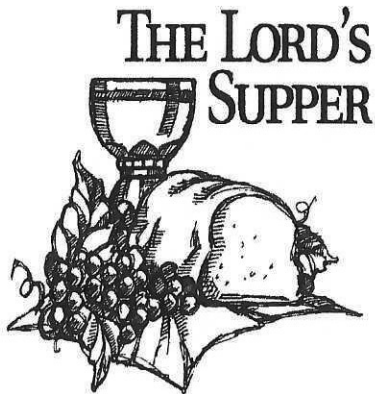
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**STRONG WORD**

**February 2, 2025**

## TODAY'S MESSAGE: STRONG WORD

When the Lord called Jeremiah to be a prophet, Jeremiah said, "I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." The Lord told Jeremiah not to be afraid and said He would always be with him. Then He reached out His hand, touched Jeremiah's mouth and filled him with His words. 600 years later, Jesus reached out His hand, He spoke His words, the sick were healed and demons were cast out of people. The book of Hebrews tells us that "the word of God is living and active... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Like a surgeon, God's Word cuts into our hearts, reveals our sin and heals us with the words of our Savior. And He fills us with His words so that we can proclaim His salvation. Jesus is our Strong Word!



In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

*Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper".

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

# **✚ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✚**

["Divine Service: Setting One" from LSB p.151]

*Please silence – or turn off – all phones and electronic devices before and during the service.*

Welcome

*Psalm 118:24*

P: This is the day the LORD has made.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Announcements

Opening Hymn

"Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear"

LSB 908

**Lord, open now my heart to hear, and through Your Word to me draw near.  
Let me Your Word e'er pure retain. Let me Your child and heir remain.**

**Your Word inspires my heart within. Your Word grants healing from my sin.  
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless. Your Word brings peace and happiness.**

**To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Shall glory, praise and honor be, now and throughout eternity.**

Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b*

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(sung)* A - - - men.

Confession of Sins

*1 John 1:8-9*

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.**

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We  
have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and  
by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we  
have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and  
eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

**C:** *(sung)* **A - - - men.**

**Entrance Psalm [ESV]**

**Psalm 71:1-12**

**P:** In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame! In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me, and save me!

**C:** **Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.**

**P:** Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

**C:** **Upon you I have leaned from before my birth; you are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.**

**P:** I have been as a portent to many, but you are my strong refuge.

**C:** **My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day.**

**P:** Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent.

**C:** **For my enemies speak concerning me; those who watch for my life consult together and say, "God has forsaken him; pursue and seize him, for there is none to deliver him."**

**ALL:** **O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!**

**Hymn of Praise**

**"Thy Word is a Lamp"**

**[AGPS 247]**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)**

**When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)**

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**I will not forget your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)**

### Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** *(sung)* And also with you.

### Opening Prayer

**P:** Let us pray.

**ALL:** Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus to move among your people with healing for every hurt of life. Send him among us today with his words of power and peace to rescue us from all evil and to heal our sinful and sin-filled lives; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

"Dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you."

**R:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Your Word, O Lord, is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.  
Hebrews 4:12

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Your Word, O Lord, is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.**  
Hebrews 4:12

## Gospel Reading [ESV]

Luke 4:31-44

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

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And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

## Children's Message

### Sermon Hymn

"Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

LSB 545

**Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending.  
Touch our hearts and bring to birth, faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere You. Word made flesh, we long to hear You.**

**Word eternal, throned on high. Word that brought to life creation.  
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation.  
Saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, Your love outpouring.**

**Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our mortal blindness.  
Deaf we are – our healer be. Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.  
Be our Word in pity spoken. Heal the world, by sin now broken.**

**Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling.  
Word that sends us from above, God the Spirit, with us dwelling.  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us. Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

### Sermon

### STRONG WORD

"The word of God is living and active." Hebrews 4:12

### Confession of Faith

### Nicene Creed

**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.**

**Offertory** *(sung)*

*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,**

**In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

**Offering** *(Greet those seated near you. You may say, "The peace of the Lord be with you.")*

*[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]*

**Offering Prayer**

**[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]**

**P:** We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

**C:** May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.

**Prayers**

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## ✚ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✚

### *VISITORS and MEMBERS*

*Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.*

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, and now we praise you that you sent us your only-begotten Son and that in him, being found in fashion as a man, you 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 . . .

Sanctus *(sung)* *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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.**

Words of Our Lord *Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread . . .

In the same way also he took the cup after supper . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. *John 20:19*

C: *(sung)* **A - men.**

**Agnus Dei** (*sung*)

*John 1:29*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.**

**Distribution Hymns**

**“Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”**

**LSB 585**

**Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide, for round us falls the eventide.  
O let Your Word, that saving light, shine forth undimmed into the night.**

**In these last days of great distress, grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness.  
That we keep pure till life is spent, Your holy Word and Sacrament.**

**To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold, speak tongues of fire and make us bold  
To shine Your Word of saving grace, into each dark and loveless place.**

**May glorious truths that we have heard, the bright sword of Your mighty Word,  
Spurn Satan that Your Church be strong, bold, unified in act and song.**

**Restrain, O Lord, the human pride, that seeks to thrust Your truth aside,  
Or with some man-made thoughts or things, would dim the words Your Spirit sings.**

**Stay with us Lord, and keep us true. Preserve our faith our whole life through.  
Your Word alone our heart's defense, the Church's glorious confidence.**

**“How Firm a Foundation”**

**LSB 728**

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said,  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

**“Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid.  
I'll strengthen you, help you and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”**

**"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes.  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"**

**"When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you, I only design,  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine."**

**"Throughout all their lifetime, My people will prove,  
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love.  
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."**

**"Jesus Comes Today with Healing"**

**LSB 620**

**Jesus comes today with healing, knocking at my door, appealing,  
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.  
He Himself makes preparation, and I hear His invitation:  
"Come and taste the blessed feast."**

**Christ Himself, the priest presiding, yet in bread and wine abiding,  
In this holy sacrament,  
Gives the bread of life, once broken, and the cup, the precious token,  
Of His sacred covenant.**

**Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,  
Blood and body, giv'n for me,  
Very Lamb of God from heaven, who to bitter death was given.  
Hung upon the cursed tree.**

**God descends with heav'nly power, gives Himself to me this hour,  
In this ordinary sign.  
On my tongue His pledge receiving, I accept His grace, believing,  
That I taste His love divine.**

**Let me praise God's boundless favor, whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call.  
Wedding garments He provides me, with a robe of white He hides me,  
Fits me for the royal hall.**

**Now have I found consolation, comfort in my tribulation,  
Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
God, my shield from ev'ry terror, cleanses me from sin and error.  
Makes my wounded spirit whole.**

### **Song of Thanksgiving**

**"Thank the Lord"**

*Psalm 100*

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done. Let all  
who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises  
and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P:** Let us pray.

**ALL:** 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. Amen.

### **Benediction**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be  
gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C:** *(sung)* A - men, A - men, A - - men.

### **Closing Hymn**

**"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"**

**LSB 919**

**Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with Your grace,  
That Satan may not harm us, nor we to sin give place.**

**Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with Your Word,  
And thus now and hereafter, true peace and joy afford.**



**Abide with heav'nly brightness, among us, precious Light.  
Your truth direct and keep us, from error's gloomy night.**

**Abide with richest blessings, among us, bounteous Lord.  
Let us in grace and wisdom, grow daily through Your Word.**

**Abide with Your protection, among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us, and overcome at length.**

**Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with Your love.  
Grant steadfastness and help us, to reach our home above.**

**CLC MISSION STATEMENT: "We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God's Word,  
sharing God's love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name."**