

**A Prayer
Upon
Entering
Church**
Speak, O
Lord, Your
servant lis-
tens. Let
Your Word
to me come
near. New-
born life and
spirit give
me. Let each
promise still
my fear.
Death's
dread pow'r,
its inward
strife, wars
against Your
Word of life.
Fill me Lord,
with love's
strong fervor,
that I cling to
You forever!

~ *Anna Sophia*
II, d. 1683
LSB # 589



Sexagesima

February 4, 2024 + 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. As wasteful as it seemed for Mary to anoint Jesus, preparing him for death and burial (John 12:3), so too does it seem wasteful for a farmer to cast seed here, there, and everywhere. Does he not know what he's doing? Perhaps that's one of the points of the parable in our reading for today. What to our eyes appears wasteful is to God a divine condescension. He scatters His Word here, there, and everywhere, knowing full well it may be "wasted" (though He is not the one wasting it!). May God so help us to treasure His Word, never wasting the life, the hope, and the joy provided in it.

Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Ernest Roesler (b. February 2) by his family.
- The flowers at the altar are sponsored by Jerry & Dorothy Kittel in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary on February 9.
- The sponsor charts for 2024 Radio Broadcasts, Flowers and Bulletins are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

A Welcome for Those With Young Children

This house is your children's home, too. Relax and enjoy your time here:

- Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at Zion.
- To make it a bit easier on your family, please consider sitting towards the front where your children can easily see the worship leaders, hear the words, note the colors, wonder about some of the images up there, and embrace the action at the altar.
- As we go along, softly explain the liturgy to your children, encouraging them to chime in with their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy! And also with you! I believe! Our Father!* All of that belongs to them, too.
- Be sure to sing and pray your parts as you stand and kneel and sit. Your children learn by following your lead.
- If you and your child must leave, please hurry back. There is a nursery downstairs for those who would like to use it, but like Jesus, we want your children in the liturgy, not out. *Let the little children come unto me.* (Luke 18:16).

If you need help, just ask. There are lots of folks here who will lend a hand.



PRELUDE

"Prelude and Fugue in D Minor" ... Dietrich Buxtehude

RINGING OF THE BELLS

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.**

Please kneel. Silence for reflection.

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

C: **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**

There's something about this parable [in Luke 8:4-15] that doesn't make sense. No one who understands farming would waste his seed like that, but Jesus does.

And what about the Word in my life? Is it going to waste or does it bear fruit?

*~ Bo Giertz,
To Live
With Christ,
1974 A.D.*

We should see our great sins and regret them. In the light of the Holy Spirit, we must also learn to know Jesus Christ as our Savior and believe in Him. If through the hearing of the Word a new light does not once shine upon a person in respect to himself and Jesus Christ, if the divine fire of the Word does not once pierce the heart, so that his heart glows with a desire for Christ, God's Word has been preached in vain...

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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

Please stand.

ENTRANCE HYMN

“O Word of God Incarnate”

... LSB #523

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



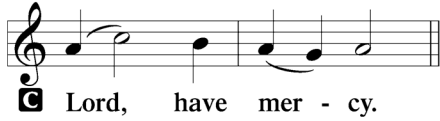
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



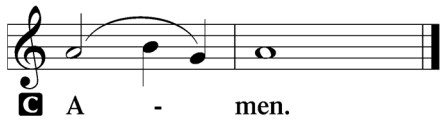
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.



COLLECT

P: Let us pray . . . O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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 be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

...Instead of saving him, the hearing of God's Word will rather become grounds for the complaint that he let this Means of Grace be without fruit.

~ C.F.W. Walther, Gospel Sermons: Vol. 1, 1870 A.D.

The 84th psalm is a psalm of comfort. It praises God's Word highly over all things and exhorts us to gladly give up all good things – glory, power, joy, and whatever we desire – that we may hold onto God's Word. And if we should be like the door keeper, that is, the least of those in the temple, this would still be far better than to sit in all the castles of the godless. For God's Word gives victory, salvation, grace, glory, and all good things...

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the Lord,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY *Psalm 84*

L: How lovely is your | dwelling place,*
O | LORD of hosts!

**C: My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts | of the LORD;*
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the | living God.**

L: Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may | lay her young,*
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King | and my God.

**C: Blessèd are those who dwell | in your house,*
ever sing- | ing your praise!**

L: Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

**C: As they go through the Valley of Baca
they make it a | place of springs;*
the early rain also covers | it with pools.**

L: They go from | strength to strength;*
each one appears before God in | Zion.

C: O LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer;*
give ear, O God of | Jacob!

L: Behold our shield, | O God;*
look on the face of your a- | nointed!

C: For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand | elsewhere.*
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of | wickedness.

L: For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and | honor.*
No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk up- | rightly.

C: O | LORD of hosts,*
blessèd is the one who | trusts in you!

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son,*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 11:19–12:9

¹⁹For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! ²⁰For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. ²¹To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. ²³Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. ²⁴Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was ship-

*...Oh, how
blessed are
those who be-
lieve this and
then keep it!
But where are
they? Even if
they were
slandered and
despised they
would find the
whole world to
be theirs in
abundance,
prepared for
them.*

*~ Martin Lu-
ther, Sum-
maries of the
Psalms,
1531 A.D.*

God sends his Word against our hearts as a fire, and as a hammer, that crushes rock. It is living, and active, sharper than a two-edged sword. But when it strikes a broken heart, then the Word is spirit and life. It heals and regenerates, and it is the power of God unto salvation. And if I will allow myself to be led, it will be light unto my feet and a lamp upon my pathway.

~ Bo Giertz,
Preaching from the Whole Bible,
1957 A.D.

wrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³²At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, ³³but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven— whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise— whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

TRACT

L: O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses;
you have been angry; oh, restore us.
You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open;
repair its breaches, for it totters.
That your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 8th chapter.



⁴When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” ⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit

A person can read these parables as a description of men and their different ways of behaving when they hear the gospel, but first and foremost, it is a parable about the word. Why is there so often a bad harvest when it is sown? ... there is something in the nature of men that makes the gospel a waste. The word reveals how we vary in our response. Here there is a division of people. The parables have a particular function for this division...

does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



APOSTLES CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“May God Bestow on Us His Grace”

... LSB #823

SERMON

“That’s Wasteful – Thank God!”

Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.

P: . . . Lord in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

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**

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

“Preach You the Word”

... LSB #586

The Choir will sing Stanza 1

Please stand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . . Merciful Lord,

C: **we do not come to your table trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. Grant us so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood that we may ever dwell in him, and he in us. Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.

... We usually think of them as simple explanations that anyone can understand. But the word parable also meant riddle or mysterious speech among the Jews.

*~ Bo Giertz,
New Testament Devotional Commentary:
Vol. 1,
1984 A.D.*

C We lift them to the Lord.

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

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS (*"Holy"*)

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after the 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 blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

ACCLAMATION

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")



☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the

The human race is truly redeemed and reconciled with God through Christ. By His faultless obedience, suffering, and death, Christ merited for us the righteousness that helps us before God and also merits eternal life. Such merit and benefits of Christ are presented, offered, and distributed through the Word, when it is preached, heard, and pondered, Christ will be effective and active in us, will convert hearts to true repentance and preserve them in the true faith...

(continued next page...)

... The Spirit will justify all those who in true repentance receive Christ by a true faith. He will receive them into grace, the adoption of sons, and the inheritance of eternal life. He will also sanctify in love those who are justified. He will also strengthen, increase, and support to the end the good work that he has begun in them, if they cling to God's Word, pray diligently, abide in God's goodness, and faithfully use the gifts they received...

sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing” ... LSB #584

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” ... LSB #655

"God, Whose Almighty Word"



1 God, whose al - might - y word Cha - os and
 2 Lord, who once came to bring, On Your re -
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, Life - giv - ing,
 Δ 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, Glo - ri - ous



dark - ness heard And took their flight: Hear us, we
 deem - ing wing, Heal - ing and sight, Health to the
 ho - ly dove, Speed forth Your flight; Move on the
 Trin - i - ty, Wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as



hum - bly pray, And where the Gos - pel day
 sick in mind, Sight to the in - ly blind:
 wa - ter's face, Bear - ing the lamp of grace,
 o - cean's tide, Roll - ing in full - est pride,



Sheds not its glo - rious ray, Let there be light!
 Oh, now to hu - man-kind Let there be light!
 And in earth's dark - est place Let there be light!
 Through the earth, far and wide, Let there be light!

... Finally, He will eternally save and glorify in life eternal those whom He has elected, called, and justified.

~ Solid Declaration,
 Article XI,
 1577 A.D.

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

... LSB #643

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -

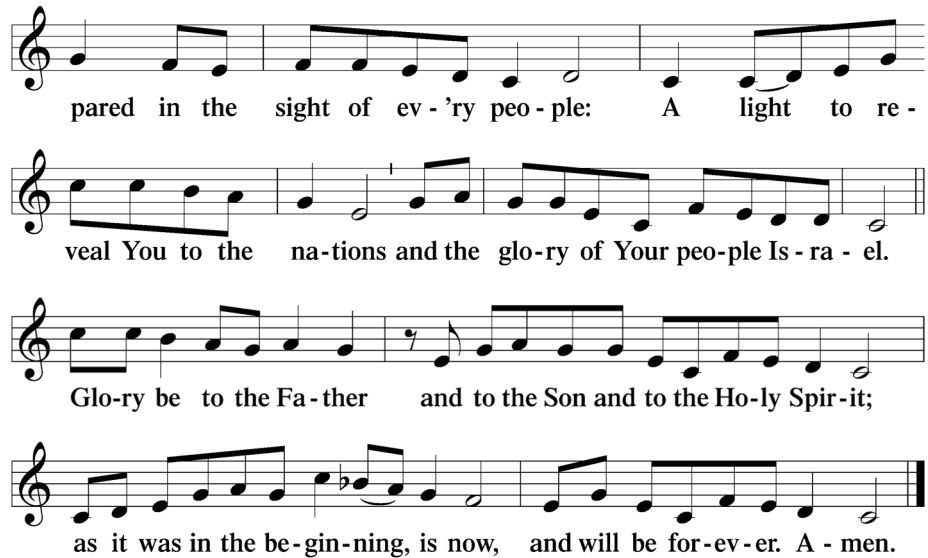


filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -

**A Prayer
Before You
Go**

You sow
the good
Word,
Lord, even
in my
heart. I
wonder
how much
of it has
been tram-
pled upon.
I am
ashamed to
think how
much I
have let
wither and
die. And
yet, Lord,
You never
tire of sow-
ing again...
Let Your
Word take
root so it
can bear
fruit. Let it
bear fruit
that honors
Your
name...
Amen.

~ Bo Giertz



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: 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: Amen

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



A - men.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

... John A. Behnke

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

<u>Presiding:</u>	The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde
<u>Preaching:</u>	The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson <i>(Pr. Gjerde to Bethany at 10:30 am)</i>
<u>Organist:</u>	Kantor Irene Beethe
<u>Clarinet:</u>	Dan Maguire
<u>Choir:</u>	Steve Kroening, Tim Pagel, Tyler Pagel, Cyndi Reuter, Anna Mae Zeinemann
<u>Radio:</u>	Scott Schubring
<u>Lector:</u>	Grace Mueller
<u>Acolyte:</u>	Tyler Pagel
<u>Communion:</u>	Sally Christoffersen, Lois Jarosz
<u>Elder:</u>	Adam Holzschuh
<u>Ushers:</u>	Amy Meyer, Brant Meyer, Jessica Pagel, Tyler Pagel
<u>Altar Guild:</u>	Jane Gjerde, Anna Mae Zeinemann

Acknowledgements

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Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde
Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Kantor Irene Beethe
Office Manager Jessica G. Ray
Custodian Cody Augustine
Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl
Pastor Emeritus Theodore B. Gulhaugen

To contact us by email:
zion@zionlutheranwausau.com

To visit our webpage:
www.zionlutheranwausau.com

Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

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