

**A Prayer
Upon
Entering
Church**

O God, by the patient suffering of Your only-begotten Son You have beaten down the pride of the old enemy. Now help us, we humbly pray, rightly to treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has of His goodness borne for our sake that after His example we may bear with patience all that is adverse to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



Septuagesima

January 28, 2024 + 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. *Septuagesima*, from the Latin for 70, marks about 70 days from Easter. By pointing ahead to that celebration, *Septuagesima* reminds us how all of our time flows from that great victory of Christ over death and carries us towards its fulfillment on the Last Day. We therefore take these next three weeks to prepare for Lent and Easter. Central to that preparation is remembering that all of God's works come from His grace, His immense favor and kindness, and that grace is the focus of today's Gospel reading.

Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Tom & Pam Gabriel and David & Jane Johnson in thanksgiving for many blessings received.
- 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

"Light of Light, O Sole Begotten"

... David Cherwien, Charles W. Ore, Robert A. Hobby

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**

Seventy days before Easter, we cease singing "Alleluia" and the "Gloria," or hymn of praise. It reminds us of Psalm 137: "By the rivers of Babylon, we sat down and wept How can we sing the songs of Zion in a foreign land?" Until our Lord comes, Christians live in a kind of exile, and the number "70" is the number of exile in Scripture, recalling the 70 years of Israel's exile in Babylon . . .

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

"Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten"

... LSB #914

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.



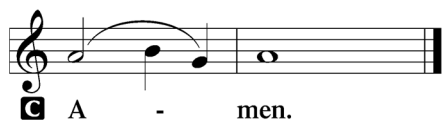
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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 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 be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 17:1-7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your

... Our "little exile" of 70 days (Pre-Lent + Lent) dips into that experience, keeping us from false happiness and comfort in this world by teaching us to long and pray for more. In that longing for Christ, a true and even greater happiness than the world can provide comes to us, as we set our hope not on what can be seen, but on what cannot be seen (2 Corinthians 4:18).

*“Let us worship before the Lord who made us,” because we did not worship when he made us, and yet he made us all the same. So having made us before we worshiped him, is he going to desert us when we worship him? If someone were doubting whether he would be listened to when he prayed, Scripture reassures him when it says, “Let us cry before the Lord who made us.” Of course he cannot fail to care for those he made.
~ Augustine (d. 430 A.D.)*

hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY *Psalm 95:1-9*

L: Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;*

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!

C: Let us come into his presence with thanks- | giving;*

let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!

L: For the LORD is a | great God,*

and a great King a- | bove all gods.

C: In his hand are the depths | of the earth;*

the heights of the mountains are his | also.

L: The sea is his, for he | made it,*

and his hands formed the | dry land.

C: Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;*

let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!

L: For he | is our God,*

and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep | of his hand.

C: Today, if you | hear his voice,*

do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the | wilderness,

L: when your fathers put me | to the test*
and put me to the proof, though they had | seen my work.

**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 1 Corinthians 9:24–10:5

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. ¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

TRACT

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

You are an athlete. Come to grips with your opponent, not with your head but with your arms [i.e., with a life of devotion, not merely the thought of it].

~ Ambrose of Milan (d. 397 A.D.)

The last ones, receiving the generosity of the Master instead of troubles, are first to receive their reward, since all those after the Lord's coming have become – through baptism and the union with the Spirit – "sharers in God's nature" and are called sons of God.
~ Cyril of Alexandria (d. 444 A.D.)

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.



¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

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

"Salvation unto Us Has Come," Stanzas 1-5 ... LSB #555

SERMON

"That's Unfair – 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**

“What are we to make of Christ?” There is no question of what we can make of Him, it is entirely a question of what He intends to make of us. You must accept or reject the story.

The things He says are very different from what any other teacher has said. Others say, “This is the truth about the Universe. This is the way you ought to go,” but He says, “I am the Truth, and the Way, and the Life” . . .

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

“Salvation unto Us Has Come,” Stanzas 6-10 ... LSB #555

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

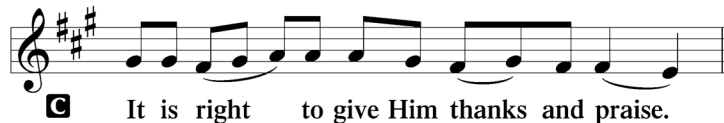
P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



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



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

SANCTUS ("Holy")

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.

... He says
 "No man can reach absolute reality, except through Me. Try to retain your own life and you will be inevitably ruined. Give yourself away and you will be saved."
 He says, "If you are ashamed of Me, if, when you hear this call, you turn the other way, I also will look the other way when I come again as God without disguise. If anything whatever is keeping you from God and from Me, whatever it is, throw it away ..."

[continued next page]

[from previous page]

... If it is your eye, pull it out. If it is your hand, cut it off. If you put yourself first you will be last. Come to Me everyone who is carrying a heavy load, I will set that right. Your sins, all of them, are wiped out, I can do that. I am Re-birth, I am Life. Eat Me, drink Me, I am your Food. And finally, do not be afraid, I have overcome the whole Universe." That is the issue.

~ C. S. Lewis,
The Business of Heaven,
Daily Readings from
C. S. Lewis

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
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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior" | ... LSB #619 |
| "Christ the Eternal Lord" | ... LSB #829 |
| "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" | ... LSB #761 |
| "Almighty Father, Bless the Word" | ... LSB #923 |

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 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

**A Prayer
As You Go**
 Better one day in Thy courts
 than a thousand days at home;
 better to linger by the threshold of
 God's house than to live in the dwell-
 ings of the wicked.
 ~ Psalm 84:10

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.

C A - men.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word” ... Johann Pachelbel

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Presiding: The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson
Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde
(Pr. Johnson to Bethany at 10:30 am)
Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe
Flute: Jacob Roseman
Choir: Janean Andrus, Sarah Gjerde, Carol Rich,
Jim Speckhard, Keith Watson
Radio: Dick Ames
Lector: Scott Ray
Acolyte: Elsa Oestreich
Communion: Grace Mueller, Steve Zeinemann
Elder: Tim Pagel
Ushers: Sally Christoffersen, Landis Holdorf,
Frank Rodemeier, Tammie Rodemeier
Altar Guild: Connie Lemmer, Bonnie Waack

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)

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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

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

**Member Congregation of Lutheran Con-
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