



WELS MISSIONS

Reaching out to every neighbor, every nation



"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:19-20



BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

January 7, 2024

THEME OF THE DAY: JESUS GOES WHERE HE SHOULDN'T

There are various needs we have in this life. Needs for things like food, shelter, and water. In our Gospel reading for today we hear of a Samaritan woman who had needs she hoped would be filled by Jesus as she was drawing water from a well. But Jesus didn't give her what she was looking for. No, he instead elevated the conversation to the one profound need she had. Jesus led her to see that he is the water of life. He used the mirror of the law to incite in her a thirst for mercy that only he could provide. And this woman who saw Jesus for who he was and what he provided then couldn't help but go and tell others about the one she believed to be the Christ!

Preaching Minister

Pastor Bounkeo Lor

Presiding Minister

Pastor Justin Wilkens

Organist/Pianist

Quinton Corwin

Acknowledgments

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The Service, Setting One (page 154 in Christian Worship 21)

Hymn: 900 Lift High the Cross

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

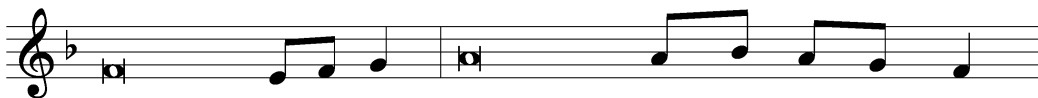
Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



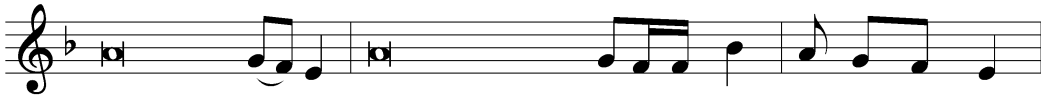
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



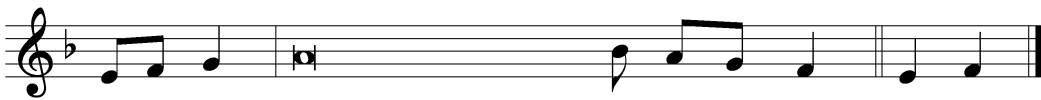
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended to your throne of glory, you commissioned your followers to gather disciples from all nations. Grant strength to those who go in your name to declare your gospel near and far. Empower them to preach, teach, and live in your love. Bless their efforts, and make them strong to persevere beneath every cross they must bear; you live and reign, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

The Glory of Zion

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you.

² Look, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the Lord will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.

³ Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Look up. Look all around and see!
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and people will carry your daughters on their side.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant.
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.
The wealth of the nations will come to you.

⁶ Caravans of camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
All those from Sheba will come.
They will carry gold and incense,
and they will announce the good news of the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: 67B God of Mercy, God of Grace



1 God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright - ness
2 Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord! Be by all that
3 Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord, then en - joy your



of your face. Shine up - on us, Sav - ior, shine;
 live a - dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing
 rich re - ward! God to us his bless - ing give,



fill your Church with light di - vine, and your sav - ing
 glo - ry to their Sav - ior King, at your feet their
 we to God de - vot - ed live, all be - low and



health ex - tend to the earth's re - mot - est end.
 trib - ute pay, and your ho - ly will o - bey.
 all a - bove one in joy and light and love.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, alt
 Tune: German, adapt. Johann G. Werner
 Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Romans 15:23–33

Paul's Plan to Visit Rome

²³ But now I no longer have a place to work in these regions, and I have longed for many years to come to you. ²⁴ So when I go to Spain, I hope to visit you on my way. After I have enjoyed being with you for a while, I hope that you will help me on my journey there. ²⁵ Right now I am going to Jerusalem bringing assistance to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. ²⁷ Indeed, they were pleased to do this and, to be sure, they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual things, then the Gentiles owe it to them to serve them with material things.

²⁸ So, after I complete this project by delivering this fruit safely to them, I will set out for Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹ And I know that when I come to you, I will arrive with the full blessing of Christ.

³⁰ Now I urge you, brothers, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to struggle with me in prayers to God on my behalf. ³¹ Pray that I may be rescued from those in Judea who are disobedient and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you in joy and be refreshed in your company.

³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

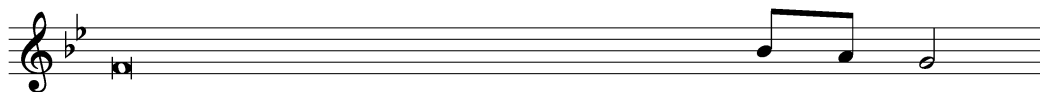
Isaiah 52:7



Refrain



Tone



How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,

Refrain



who bring salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

Gospel

John 4:1–9, 28–30, 39–42

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

¹ Jesus found out that the Pharisees had heard he was making and baptizing more disciples than John, ² though it was not Jesus himself who was baptizing but his disciples. ³ So he left Judea and went back again to Galilee.

⁴ He had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the piece of land Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there. Then Jesus, being tired from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone into town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ²⁸ Then the woman left her water

jar and went back into town. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see the man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” ³⁰They left the town and came to him.

Many Samaritans Believe

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony: “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them. And he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of his message. ⁴² They told the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said. Now we have heard for ourselves. And we know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 907 How Shall They Hear, Who Have Not Heard

Sermon: John 4:1-9, 28-30, 39-42: Jesus Goes Where He Shouldn’t

Credal Hymn: 940 We All Believe in One True God

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress.

Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support.

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

Offering

Offering Hymn: 739 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go

sts. 1, 5

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn: 906 May God Bestow on Us His Grace

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship, 11:30 AM Potluck with presentation afterwards

Sunday: 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

Joint Mission Festival: Meal and Presentation

Our potluck meal with Grace will begin following our service. Following the meal, around 12:15, Pastor Bounkeo Lor will lead us in a presentation on the work being done in Vietnam.

Bethel Voters Meeting January 14th

Following our service on January 14th we will have our annual voters meeting downstairs in the basement.

Decoration takedown January 21st

Following our service on January 21st we will take down our Christmas decorations.

Ladies Aid Meeting Tuesday January 9th

The next Ladies Aid meeting will be on Tuesday January 9th at 10:00 AM.

CONNECTION CARDS: Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at www.bethelyork.com on the member connect tab or scan this code.



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 32, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,854.90, Given \$2,140.25. **To God be the glory!**

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