

February 15, 2026

THE SERVICE – SETTING 3

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we are surrounded by so many different peoples and cultures. All of them need Jesus. And from all of them, Jesus is drawing people and future pastors to himself. Not all these future pastors from various peoples and cultures are trained best in Minnesota or Wisconsin. Some are trained best where they can serve and grow with their peoples in their own cultures.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we welcome Prof. Harland Goetzing of our WELS Pastoral Studies Institute PSI. In worship and in our Family Bible Hour presentation, he will highlight for us the blessings Jesus is sharing through our PSI.

OPENING HYMN

“Jesus, Take us to the Mountain”

Hymn 390

Jesus, take us to the mountain
where, with Peter, James, and John,
we are dazzled by your glory,
light as blinding as the sun.
There prepare us for the night
by the vision of that sight.

What do you want us to see there
that your close companions saw?
Your divinity revealed there

fills us with the selfsame awe.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go,
matched to meet our deadliest foe.

What do you want us to hear there
that your dear disciples heard?
Once again the voice from heaven
says of the incarnate Word:
“Listen, listen, ev’ryone;
this is my beloved Son!”

Take us to that other mountain
where we see you glorified,
where you shouted, “It is finished!”
where for all the world you died.
Hear the stunned centurion:
“Truly this was God’s own Son!”

We who have beheld your glory,
risen and ascended Lord,
cannot help but tell the story,
all that we have seen and heard,
say with Peter, James, and John:
“You are God’s beloved Son!”

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

CW 189

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and

freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

CW 190

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 TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CW 191

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, glory to God, and peace to his people on earth, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us co-heirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FESTIVAL LESSON

Matthew 17:1–9

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by

themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE

"How Good, Lord, to Be Here"

Hymn 389

How good, Lord, to be here
your beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand,
your messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past,
and hope of things to be,

we hail your body glorified
and our redemption see.

Before we taste of death,
we see your kingdom come;
we long to hold the vision bright
and make this hill our home.

But you, Lord, do not stay.
With mercy resolute
you leave this glorious hill to die—
our perfect substitute.

How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 4:4–6

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5:16

Alleluia!

Let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father
in heaven.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13–16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Church of God, Elect and Glorious”

Hymn 854

Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race,
called as God’s own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace;
know the purpose of your calling,
show to all his mighty deeds,
tell of love that knows no limits,
grace that meets all human needs.

God has called you out of darkness
into his most marv’lous light,
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God’s name is glorified
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.

Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God’s heart of love,
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heav’n above.
Let his love flow out to others,
let them feel a Father’s care,

that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share.

Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends,
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your master sends.
Royal priests, fulfill your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service,
sing his praise, his love declare.

SERMON

Matthew 5:13-16

"You Were Made to Make a Difference"

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of
God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true
God,
begotten, not made,**

of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from
heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin
Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.



You can support our Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) through your monthly Special Offering envelope, our special offering envelopes in the pews, our online giving page (at the QR code), our door offering today (or all of the above!)

PRAYER

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, that his ways may be known on earth, his salvation among all nations. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has given gifts to the Church in the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. According to your will, raise up more workers and send them into harvest fields in our land and around the world. Pour out your wisdom, O Lord, on all who train and prepare those who proclaim the everlasting gospel in their own communities and cultures. By the power of your gospel, strengthen them so that they

do not become discouraged but continue in the course you have set before them. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Wherever we go, near or far, move us to share the gospel with eagerness and joy. Give us grace to be models to all so that our brothers and sisters might see our good works and glorify you. Plant in the hearts of your people a deeper desire to share the gospel with their lips and their gifts so that many more may come to know and believe the love of your Son. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

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.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)
(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)

Preface

The Lord be with you.

CW 183

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave

it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

Lamb of God

CW 202

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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Down from the Mount of Glory"

Hymn 388

Down from the mount of glory
came Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Recall the wondrous story,
rich gem in sacred Word.
Again your faith will view him
in double glory here;
the greater homage due him
will in your life appear.

Transfigured, Christ, the lowly,
stood radiant in the light,
light found in Godhead solely,
for human eyes too bright.
Then came a voice from heaven,
confirmed what here we see;
the words “my Son” were given
to seal his deity.

Yet mark this glory hidden!
See him the mount descend
and, by the Father bidden,
his willing footsteps bend
to seek humiliation
in deepest depths of woe,
to suffer degradation
no mind can probe or know.

Strange how his journey ended!
In love that is his fame
our Lord again ascended
a mount—the hill of shame.
Upon the cross he proffered
himself to agony;
his holy soul he offered
to set the guilty free.

Then hail the double glory
of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
and let the wondrous story
full peace and joy afford!
The holy mount acclaims him
the majesty divine;
Mount Calvary proclaims him
Redeemer—yours and mine.

CLOSING PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; 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.

CLOSING HYMN

“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying”

Hymn 745

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,
“Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting;
who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth;
rich reward he offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I, send me, send me”?

If you cannot speak like angels,
if you cannot preach like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus,
you can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
with the judgment’s dread alarms,
you can lead the little children
to the Savior’s waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman,
standing high on Zion’s wall,

pointing out the path to heaven,
off'ring life and peace to all,
with your prayers and with your off'rings
you can do what God demands;
you can be like faithful Aaron,
holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
while the multitudes are dying,
and the Master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly,
let his work your pleasure be;
answer quickly when he calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"

Acknowledgments

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School Recruitment Plan - Open Forum Update

On Sunday, February 1, after Family Bible Hour, we had a fruitful discussion on our new School Recruitment Plan. Here are some fruits from our discussion -

- Robotics Team - we may have a new coach!
- Exit Survey - let's do them. We have started a new ongoing survey program.

- Yard Signs - let's make them more visible - with QR codes
- Promote VBS and a VBS tuition credit for new students
- Follow-Up VBS events to get families back into the building
- Have VBS in the evening with a Family-style setting.
- Advertise Chili Cook-Off on the church sign
- Find ways to reach out to the new growth in Mundelein
- Post church service times on the church's Facebook page - DONE!
- Hire a social media coordinator
- Provide transportation for the school for those who live farther away
- Market that we (WELS) are the 4th largest private school system in the U.S.

- Check into Blueprint School for marketing and enrollment help
- Change our school name to Libertyville Christian Academy
- Who is our target audience? What do we know about demographics? Who are our competitors? What are parents specifically looking for in our area? What extracurricular activities do parents want? Find this data to help justify where we focus our efforts.

- Are postcards working? Are they worth the cost?
- What has been working?

If you have questions or suggestions, please share them!

If you would like to take action with our School Recruitment Plan, please join our team!

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