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Sexagesima

*Divine Service*

February 23, 2025

**Holy Communion** is celebrated this Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church in the glad confidence that our Lord, as His Words say, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites to His table those who believe He is truly present, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive as He forgives us. Because Saint Paul reminds us that we can receive the Lord's Supper to our judgment, we are very careful to administer the Sacrament only to those who are properly prepared. When we receive Holy Communion, we publicly declare our agreement with the teachings of the church from which we receive it. *Therefore, if you are not yet a member of this congregation, a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and if you have not previously spoken to the Pastor about Holy Communion, please refrain from coming forward to receive Communion until you have first spoken with the Pastor.* If you cannot receive the Lord's Supper but desire a blessing, please join us at the Communion rail and cross your arms over your chest to tell the pastor of your intent.

**Opening Hymn**  
**Liturgy**  
**Introit**

*O Word of God Incarnate*

LSB 523  
p. 184

- P: Awake! Why are you sleeping, | O Lord?\*
- Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for- | ever!
- For our soul is bowed down | to the dust;\*
- Rise up; come | to our help!
- C: **O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have |**  
**told us,\***
- what deeds you performed in their days, in the | days**  
**of old:**

**you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them  
you | planted;\***  
**you afflicted the peoples, but them you | set free;**  
**But you have saved us | from our foes\***  
**and have put to shame those who | hate us.**  
**In God we have boasted con- | tinually,\***  
**and we will give thanks to your name for- | ever.**

**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.**

**P: Awake! Why are you sleeping, | O Lord?\***  
**Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for- | ever!**  
**For our soul is bowed down | to the dust;\***  
**Rise up; come | to our help!**

**Kyrie**  
**Collect**

p. 186

**P: 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**

**Old Testament**

Isaiah 55:10-13 (ESV)

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, so 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.

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 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.

**Gradual**

**C: Let your enemies know that you alone, whose name | is the LORD,\*  
are the Most High over | all the earth.  
O my God, make them like | whirling dust,\*  
like chaff be- | fore the wind.**

### **Epistle**

Hebrews 4:9-13 (ESV)

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For 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.

### **Tract**

**C: O God, you have rejected us, broken our de- | fenses;\*  
you have been angry; oh, re- | store 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 de- | livered,\*  
give salvation by your right hand and | answer us!**

### **Gospel**

Luke 8:4-15 (ESV)

And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "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. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And 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."

And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he 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. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The 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. And 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. And 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 does not mature. As 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.”

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|------------------------|--|-------------|
| <b>Nicene Creed</b>    |  | p. 191      |
| <b>Hymn of the Day</b> | <i>May God Bestow on Us His Grace</i>          | LSB 824     |
| <b>Sermon</b>          | <i>Preparing the Soil</i>                      | Luke 8:4-15 |
| <b>Offertory</b>       |  | p. 192      |
| <b>Offering</b>        |  |             |
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| <b>Lord's Supper</b>   |  | p. 194      |
| <b>Distribution</b>    | <i>The Law of God is Good and Wise</i>         | LSB 579     |
|                        | <i>Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord</i> | LSB 637     |
|                        | <i>The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace</i>     | LSB 580     |
| <b>Canticle</b>        | <i>Nunc Dimittis</i>                           | p.199       |
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| <b>Benediction</b>     |  | p. 202      |
| <b>Hymn</b>            | <i>On What has Now Been Sown</i>               | LSB 921     |