

A Guide to the Divine Service

9:00 a.m.

February 23, 2025

Sexagesima Scripture Alone

The Sower sows the seed of His Word (St. Luke 8:4–15). His Word is living and powerful (Heb. 4:9–13) to conceive new life in those who hear it. But the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ's cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and His demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain. In Him, the weak are strong (2 Cor. 11:19–12:9). He is the Word of the Father which does not return void (Is. 55:10–13) but yields a harvest hundredfold.

Readings for Next Sunday:

Quinquagesima: The Sunday before Lent

Prophecy of the Day: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Epistle of the Day: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Holy Gospel of the Day: St. Luke 18:31-43

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Consurge quare dormitas Domine
“Arise! Why sleepest Thou, O Lord”

Sexagesima: Second Sunday before Lent
“The Sower and the Seeds Sunday”

Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church
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*A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical
Congregation of the Lutheran Confessions --
Where the Lutheran Reformation Lives!*

MEMBER: THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

NOTE ON PARTICIPATING IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church throughout history, "closed communion" is observed here, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those who:

- (a) are baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
- (b) have been instructed in the truth of Holy Scriptures as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, have been confirmed in this Lutheran faith and practice, and now embrace this same Lutheran faith in the same way that it is believed, taught, confessed, and practiced in this congregation;
- (c) believe that in this Sacrament the real Body and Blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) repent of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services who are able to affirm these facts should speak to our pastor or the elder on duty before receiving the Sacrament. To other guests with us today, we express to you our sincere interest, friendship, and concern, and we assure you that it is for the spiritual welfare of all that we practice closed communion. Those desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to speak with our pastor.

[We rise and face the Processional Cross]

Processional Hymn **"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"** #826

Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution p. 184

The Service of the Word begins with the Introit

Awake! Why are You sleeping, O LORD?
Rouse Yourself! Do not reject us forever!
 For our soul is bowed down to the dust.
Rise up; come to our help!
 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 continually,
and we will give thanks to Your name forever.
 (Ps. 44:1-2, 7-8; antiphon: Ps. 44:23, 25a, 26a)

[Spoken] **Gloria Patri, Kyrie** p. 186
Gloria in Excelsis [omitted during Lent]
Salutation p. 189

Collect for Sexagesima: 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, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **A - - - men!**

[We are seated]

Prophecy of the Day **Isaiah 55:10-13**
[The Word Accomplishes Its Purpose]
 This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

Gradual

[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 before the wind. (Ps. 83:18, 13)

Epistle of the Day **2 Corinthians 11:19 – 12:9**
[Paul's Sufferings as an Apostle]
 This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

[We rise] **Tract for Sexagesima**
 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!
 (Ps. 60:1-2, 5)

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**
 Holy Gospel of the Day **St. Luke 8:4-15**
[The Parable of the Seed and the Soils]
 Responses to the Holy Gospel p. 190

Nicene Creed p. 191

[We are seated]

Hymn of the Day **"Preach You the Word"** #586

Sermon

[We rise] **Offertory** p. 192

[We are seated]

The offering is received
God richly bless you for your support of His work among us!

[We rise] **Prayer of the Church**

[Please review our Communion Policy inside this Guide]

The Service of the Sacrament p. 194

[We are seated for the Distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ]

Hymn **"Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide"** #585
 [We rise] **Doxology** #805

Dismissal, Nunc Dimittis, Thanksgiving, Salutation, Benedicamus, Benediction p. 199

[We are seated for announcements]

[We rise for the Recessional Hymn]

"On What Has Now Been Sown" #921