

# The Season of Epiphany

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version®  
following the Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal 1-Year Lectionary*

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# The Epiphany of our Lord

*Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal 1-Year Lectionary  
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## First Lesson

### Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.  
<sup>2</sup>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.  
<sup>3</sup>Nations will walk to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>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.  
<sup>6</sup>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.

## Second Lesson

### Ephesians 3:2-12

<sup>2</sup>Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ <sup>9</sup>and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God in the heavenly

places might now be made known to the rulers and authorities. <sup>11</sup>This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

## Gospel

### Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, <sup>2</sup>“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. <sup>11</sup>After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

# The First Sunday after the Epiphany—The Baptism of our Lord

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## First Lesson

### Isaiah 42:1-14

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom I delight.  
I am placing my Spirit on him.  
He will announce a just verdict for the nations.  
<sup>2</sup>He will not cry out.  
He will not raise his voice.  
He will not make his voice heard in the street.  
<sup>3</sup>A bent reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.  
He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.  
<sup>4</sup>He will not burn out, and he will not be broken  
until he establishes justice on the earth.  
The coastlands will wait for his law.  
<sup>5</sup>This is what the true God says,  
the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out,  
who spreads out the earth  
and everything that it produces,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and life to those who walk on it.  
<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD.  
I have called you in righteousness.  
I will hold on to your hand,  
and I will guard you.  
I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,  
to be a light for the nations,  
<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,  
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.  
<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD; that is my name.  
I will not give my glory to another,  
nor my praise to idols.  
<sup>9</sup>Look, the former things have taken place,  
and I am declaring new things.

I am making them known to you before they spring forth.

<sup>10</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song.

Sing his praise from the end of the earth,

you people who go down to the sea

and everything that fills it,

you coastlands and those who inhabit them.

<sup>11</sup>Let the wilderness and its towns lift up their voice,

along with the settlements where Kedar lives.

Let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy.

Let them shout from the mountain tops.

<sup>12</sup>Let them give glory to the LORD,

and let them declare his praise among the coastlands.

<sup>13</sup>The LORD will set out like a hero.

Like a warrior, he will work himself into a frenzy.

He will shout. Yes, he will raise a war cry.

He will be heroic against his enemies.

<sup>14</sup>I have been silent for a long time.

I have kept still. I have restrained myself.

But now, like a woman giving birth, I will scream.

I will gasp and pant.

## Second Lesson

### Acts 10:34-38

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak: “Now I really am beginning to understand that God does not show favoritism, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

<sup>36</sup>He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

<sup>37</sup>“You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. <sup>38</sup>God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him.

## Gospel

### Matthew 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan. <sup>14</sup>But John tried to stop him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?”

<sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, because it is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John let him. <sup>16</sup>After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, <sup>17</sup>and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him.”

# The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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## First Lesson

### Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to preach good news to the afflicted.  
He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release for those who are bound,  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance for our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion,  
to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy instead of mourning,  
a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,  
so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

## Second Lesson

### Romans 12:1-5

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. <sup>2</sup>Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. <sup>5</sup>In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

## Gospel

### Luke 2:41-52

<sup>41</sup>Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. <sup>42</sup>When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. <sup>43</sup>When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among

their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

<sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

<sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?" <sup>50</sup>They did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>51</sup>He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

# The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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## First Lesson

**Exodus 15:22-27**

<sup>22</sup>Then Moses led Israel on from the Red Sea, and they went out to the Wilderness of Shur. They traveled for three days in the wilderness but found no water. <sup>23</sup>When they came to Marah, they were not able to drink the waters of Marah, because they were bitter. That is why they named the place Marah. <sup>24</sup>The people grumbled against Moses, and they said, “What will we drink?” <sup>25</sup>Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him some wood. Moses threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

There the LORD made a decree and ruling for them, and there he tested them. <sup>26</sup>So he said, “If only you would listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in his eyes, and pay attention to his commandments, and keep all his regulations, I would not place on you any of the diseases that I placed on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”

<sup>27</sup>Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they camped there by the waters.

## Second Lesson

**Romans 12:6-16a**

<sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. <sup>7</sup>If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. <sup>8</sup>If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.

<sup>9</sup>Do not just pretend to love others. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another with brotherly love. Think of others as deserving more honor than yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Do not be lagging behind in zeal, but be fervent in spirit, as you continue to serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope. Endure trials patiently. Persist in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with the saints who are in need. Be quick to welcome strangers as guests.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who are rejoicing; weep with those who are weeping. <sup>16</sup>Have the same respect for one another.

## Gospel

**John 2:1-11**

Three days later, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

<sup>3</sup>When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no wine.”

<sup>4</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with you and me? My time has not come yet.”

<sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”



<sup>6</sup>Six stone water jars, which the Jews used for ceremonial cleansing, were standing there, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.” So they filled them to the brim. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” And they did.

<sup>9</sup>When the master of the banquet tasted the water that had now become wine, he did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew). The master of the banquet called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when the guests have had plenty to drink, then the cheaper wine. You saved the good wine until now!”

<sup>11</sup>This, the beginning of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

# The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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## First Lesson

### 2 Kings 5:1-15a

Na'aman, the commander of the king of Aram's army, was a great man in the opinion of his master. He was highly honored because the LORD had provided victory for Aram through him. Although he was a powerful warrior, he had leprosy.

<sup>2</sup>Raiding parties had once gone out from Aram and brought back a young girl. She served Na'aman's wife. <sup>3</sup>She said to her mistress, "I wish my master stood before the prophet who is in Samaria, because he would cure him of his leprosy."

<sup>4</sup>So Na'aman went and told his master what the servant girl from the land of Israel had said.

<sup>5</sup>Then the king of Aram said, "Go there. I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Na'aman went, and he took ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. <sup>6</sup>Then he took the letter to the king of Israel. The letter said, "Now, when you receive this letter, you will know that I am sending my officer Na'aman to you so that you can cure him of his leprosy."

<sup>7</sup>When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothing and said, "Am I God that I can kill and make alive? Why is he sending a man to me for me to heal him from his leprosy? See how he is looking for a pretext to fight against me."

<sup>8</sup>But when Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king: "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."

<sup>9</sup>So Na'aman went with his horses and chariots and stopped in front of the door of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup>But Elisha sent a messenger out to him to say, "Go and wash seven times in the Jordan. Then your flesh will be restored and you will be clean."

<sup>11</sup>But Na'aman was angry and he left, saying, "Look, I said to myself, 'He will certainly come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and wave his hand over the place, and I will be cured of the leprosy!' <sup>12</sup>Aren't the Abana and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went away in a burning rage.

<sup>13</sup>But his servants approached and spoke to him. They said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not do it? How much more when he says to you, 'Wash and be clean'?"

<sup>14</sup>So he went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times, just as the man of God had said. Then his flesh was restored like the flesh of a small child, and he was clean. <sup>15</sup>Then he and his whole escort went back to the man of God. He stood in front of Elisha and said, "To be sure, now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

## Second Lesson

### Romans 12:16b-21

<sup>16b</sup>Do not be arrogant, but associate with the humble. Do not think too highly of yourselves.

<sup>17</sup>Do not pay anyone back evil for evil. Focus on those things that everyone considers noble. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, maintain peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>But:

If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him a drink.

For by doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.

<sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## Gospel

### Matthew 8:1-13

When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup>Just then, a leper came to him and bowed down to him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

<sup>3</sup>Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean." Immediately he was healed of his leprosy. <sup>4</sup>Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one. Instead, go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

<sup>5</sup>When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him and pleaded with him, <sup>6</sup>"Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed and suffering terribly."

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

<sup>8</sup>The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy for you to come under my roof. But only say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I am also a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard this, he marveled. He said to those who were following him, "Amen<sup>a</sup> I tell you: I have not found such great faith in anyone in Israel. <sup>11</sup>I tell you that many will come from the east and the west and will recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup>But the children of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

<sup>13</sup>Jesus said to the centurion, "Go. Let it be done for you as you have believed." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

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<sup>a</sup> Usually, people say Amen at the end of a prayer. But Jesus used this Hebrew word at the beginning of a statement, which was unique. The inspired writer simply transliterated the Hebrew word that Jesus spoke, instead of using a Greek term. This translation does the same in English. The basic meaning is I solemnly tell you the truth. For more information about this, see FAQ #1 at [wartburgproject.org/faqs](http://wartburgproject.org/faqs)

# The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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## First Lesson

### Exodus 14:13-22

<sup>13</sup>Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm, and see the salvation from the LORD, which he will perform for you today. For the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again.

<sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you. You must wait quietly.”

<sup>15</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to set out. <sup>16</sup>As for you, lift up your staff, stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide the sea so that the Israelites can go through the middle of the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>I myself will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go into the sea after them, and I will gain glory through Pharaoh and his entire army, through his chariots and his charioteers. <sup>18</sup>The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his charioteers.”

<sup>19</sup>Then the Angel of God, who was going in front of the Israelite forces, moved and went behind them. The pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and stood behind them. <sup>20</sup>It went between the Egyptian forces and the Israelite forces. The cloud was dark on one side, but it lit up the night on the other. Neither group approached the other all night long.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night long the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned the sea into dry land. The waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the middle of the sea on dry ground. The waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left.

## Second Lesson

### Romans 13:8-10

<sup>8</sup>Do not owe anyone anything except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For the commandments—do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet (and if there is any other commandment)—are summed up in this statement: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no harm to a neighbor, so love is the fulfillment of the law.

## Gospel

### Matthew 8:23-27

<sup>23</sup>When he got into a boat, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup>Suddenly a terrible storm came up on the sea, so that their boat was covered by the waves. But Jesus was sleeping. <sup>25</sup>They went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to die!”

<sup>26</sup>He said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up, rebuked the wind and the sea, and there was a complete calm.

<sup>27</sup>The men were amazed, saying, “What kind of a man is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

# The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

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## First Lesson

### Exodus 34:5-10

<sup>5</sup>The LORD came down in the cloud. He took his stand there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>The LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed: “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy and truth, <sup>7</sup>maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children’s children to account for the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation.”

<sup>8</sup>Moses quickly bowed to the ground and worshipped. <sup>9</sup>He said, “If I have now found favor in your sight, Lord, please let the Lord go along with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, pardon our guilt and our sin, and accept us as your possession.”

<sup>10</sup>The LORD said,

See, I am making a covenant. In the presence of all your people I will do marvelous things such as have never been created anywhere on earth or in any nation. So all the people who are around you will see the work of the LORD. For it is an awe-inspiring thing that I will do for you.

## Second Lesson

### 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5

<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that when runners compete in the stadium, they all run, but only one receives the prize? Run like that—to win. <sup>25</sup>Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable victor’s wreath, but we do it for an imperishable one. <sup>26</sup>That is why there is nothing aimless about the way I run. There is no pummeling of the air in the way I box. <sup>27</sup>Instead I hit my body hard and make it my slave so that, after preaching to others, I myself will not be rejected.

<sup>10:1</sup>For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup>They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness.

## Gospel

### Matthew 20:1-16

“Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. <sup>4</sup>To these he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.’

So they went. <sup>5</sup>Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, 'Why have you stood here all day unemployed?'

<sup>7</sup>"They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.'

"He told them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'<sup>8</sup>When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.'

<sup>9</sup>"When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. <sup>11</sup>After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: <sup>12</sup>'Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!'

<sup>13</sup>"But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. <sup>15</sup>Can't I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last."

# The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

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## First Lesson

### Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup>Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky  
and do not return there  
unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to sprout,  
so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup>in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth  
will not return to me empty.

Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,  
and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>Yes, you will go out with joy,  
and in peace you will be carried along.

The mountains and the hills will break out in shouts of joy before you,  
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of thorns, a fir tree will grow up.

Instead of briars, a myrtle tree will grow up.

This will make a name for the LORD.

It will serve as an everlasting sign that will not be cut off.

## Second Lesson

### 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9

<sup>19</sup>You gladly put up with fools, since you are just so wise! <sup>20</sup>In fact, you put up with it if anyone makes you his slave, robs you, takes advantage of you, looks down on you, or strikes you in the face! <sup>21</sup>I am ashamed to say that we were too weak for that!

However bold anyone might be (I am speaking in a foolish way), I am going to be bold too. <sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's seed? So am I. <sup>23</sup>Are they ministers of Christ? (I am speaking in a crazy way.) I am even more. I've done more hard work, been in prisons more often, been whipped far more, and I've been close to death many times. <sup>24</sup>Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods. One time I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day on the open sea. <sup>26</sup>I have often been on journeys, in danger from rivers, in danger from robbers, in danger from my own people, in danger from Gentiles, in danger in the city, in danger in the wilderness, in danger on the sea, in danger among false brothers. <sup>27</sup>I have worked hard and struggled. I've spent many sleepless nights. I've been hungry and thirsty. I've gone without food many times. I've been cold and lacked clothing.

<sup>28</sup>Besides those external matters, there is the daily pressure on me of my concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak without my being weak? Who falls into sin without my being distressed?

<sup>30</sup>If it is necessary that I boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup>The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is eternally blessed, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup>In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas kept the city of Damascus on alert to arrest me, <sup>33</sup>but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped from his hands.

<sup>12:1</sup>I must go on boasting, although there is nothing to be gained. So I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who, fourteen years ago, was carried up to the third heaven (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know—God knows). <sup>3</sup>And I know that such a man (whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know—God knows) <sup>4</sup>was carried up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words that a man cannot possibly speak. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Indeed, if I wanted to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from doing this, so that no one will think more highly of me than what he sees in me or hears from me.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, to keep me from becoming arrogant due to the extraordinary nature of these revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. <sup>9</sup>And he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me.

## **Gospel**

### **Luke 8:4-15**

<sup>4</sup>As a large crowd was gathering and people from one town after another were making their way to him, he spoke using a parable. <sup>5</sup>“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell along the path. It was trampled, and the birds of the sky devoured it. <sup>6</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground. As soon as it grew, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>Other seed fell into good soil. It grew and produced fruit—one hundred times as much as was sown.” As he said these things, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear!”

<sup>9</sup>His disciples asked him, “What does this parable mean?”

<sup>10</sup>He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest I speak in parables so that ‘even though they see, they may not see, and even though they hear, they may not understand.’ <sup>11</sup>This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup>Those along the path are the ones who hear it, but then the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts to keep them from believing and being saved. <sup>13</sup>Those on the rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root. So they believe for a while, but then fall away in a time of testing. <sup>14</sup>The seeds that fell into the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but as they go on their way they are choked by the worries, riches, and pleasures of life, so they do not mature. <sup>15</sup>And the seeds in the good ground are the ones who hear the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it tightly, and produce fruit as they patiently endure.



# The Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

*Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal 1-Year Lectionary  
Evangelical Heritage Version®*

## First Lesson

### Isaiah 42:5-9

<sup>5</sup>This is what the true God says,  
the LORD who creates the heavens and stretches them out,  
who spreads out the earth  
and everything that it produces,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and life to those who walk on it.

<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD.

I have called you in righteousness.

I will hold on to your hand,  
and I will guard you.

I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,  
to be a light for the nations,

<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,  
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.

<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD; that is my name.

I will not give my glory to another,  
nor my praise to idols.

## Second Lesson

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and know all the mysteries and have all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away everything I own, and if I give up my body that I may be burned but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. It does not brag. It is not arrogant. <sup>5</sup>It does not behave indecently. It is not selfish. It is not irritable. It does not keep a record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>It does not rejoice over unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never comes to an end. But if there are prophetic gifts, they will be done away with; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be done away with. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, <sup>10</sup>but when that which is complete has come, that which is partial will be done away with. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

When I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup>Now we see indirectly using a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I was fully known.

<sup>13</sup>So now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

## **Gospel**

### **Luke 18:31-43**

<sup>31</sup>He took the Twelve aside and said to them, “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. <sup>32</sup>Indeed, he will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, mistreat him, spit on him, <sup>33</sup>flog him, and kill him. On the third day, he will rise again.”

<sup>34</sup>They did not understand any of these things. What he said was hidden from them, and they did not understand what was said.

<sup>35</sup>As he approached Jericho, a blind man sat by the road, begging. <sup>36</sup>When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. <sup>37</sup>They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by. <sup>38</sup>He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>39</sup>Those who were at the front of the crowd rebuked him, telling him to be quiet. But he kept calling out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

<sup>40</sup>Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup>“What do you want me to do for you?”

He said, “Lord, I want to see again.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight. Your faith has saved you.”

<sup>43</sup>Immediately he received his sight and began following Jesus, glorifying God. All the people, when they saw this, gave praise to God.

# The Last Sunday after the Epiphany: The Transfiguration of Our Lord

*Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal 1-Year Lectionary  
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## First Lesson

### Deuteronomy 18:15-18

<sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brother Israelites. Listen to him.

<sup>16</sup>That is exactly what you asked from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly. You said, “Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God anymore, and do not let me see this great fire again, or I will die.”

<sup>17</sup>Then the LORD said to me, “They have done well by saying what they said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up a prophet for them from among their brothers, like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them everything that I command him.

## Second Lesson

### 2 Peter 1:16-21

<sup>16</sup>To be sure, we were not following cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the powerful appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father, when the voice came to him from within the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” <sup>18</sup>We heard this voice, which came out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>We also have the completely reliable prophetic word. You do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>since we know this above all else: No prophecy of Scripture comes about from someone’s own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## Gospel

### Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John the brother of James; and he led them up onto a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>There he was transfigured in front of them. His face was shining like the sun. His clothing became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>Just then, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus.

<sup>4</sup>Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you want, I will make three shelters here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

<sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Just then, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him.”

<sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell face down and were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Jesus approached and as he touched them, he said, “Get up, and do not be afraid.” <sup>8</sup>When they opened their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus alone. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Do not tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”