



3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 2022

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

West Des Moines, IA

Sunday, January 23, 2022

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God's holy and powerful word and celebrate his life--giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him. We pray that this hour of worship fills you with the peace of God that transcends all understanding through our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are a visitor and have any questions, please speak to an usher, pastor, or any of our members. Thank you, and we hope you enjoy your time here at Beautiful Savior! We invite you to worship with us again soon!

TRUE WORSHIP

True worship is more than the speaking or singing of words from a printed page. It takes place in the heart of each believer as we hear the Bible read, explained, and applied to our lives, and as we respond in grateful adoration to God for His great love and mercy in Jesus Christ. It is helpful to arrive early to look over the service and to spend time in prayer. While worship may take various forms, the use of standardized orders of worship ("liturgies") dates back to the early Church, as a means of reinforcing Biblical beliefs and actively involving the congregation in worship.

THE SACRAMENT (2ND AND LAST SUNDAY)

In this Sacrament, Christ not only gives us bread and wine, but His holy body and blood, for the forgiveness of those who believe this (Matthew 26:26-28), but to the judgment of those who do not so believe. (1 Corinthians 11:27-31). Nothing is more sacred. Scripture requires that Pastors, as "stewards of the mysteries of Christ" (1 Corinthians 4:1), commune only those who are spiritually prepared and in full doctrinal agreement. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 13:17, James 3:1, 1 Timothy 4:11-16, 2 Timothy 4:1-5). We therefore ask that you please speak with the pastor before you receive the Lord's Supper at Beautiful Savior for the first time. Thank you.

**SERIES THEME
UNCOVERED**

We are in the season of the Church called Epiphany, a Greek word that means "to appear." Salvation has appeared in the person of Jesus Christ. In Epiphany, the Church explores everything that Christ makes apparent about God. You see, we need God to appear to us and make himself known to us. For not only is God beyond our understanding, his works and his ways are contrary to mankind's natural assumptions about him. In other words, the truth about God cannot possibly be discovered by us. Rather, it needs to be uncovered for us. That's what the Spirit is doing for us during this season of Epiphany. Week after week, surprising truths about Jesus our King and life in his kingdom will be uncovered.

THEME OF THE DAY

RECEPTION UNCOVERED: REJECTION IS NOT THE EXCEPTION BUT THE RULE

When one proclaims God's Word, typically the intentions are good. We want others to know the joy of salvation and the love of Christ. Therefore, it can be surprising to us when God's Word is met with apathy or rejection by those who hear it. It's easy to conclude that when the Word of God offends human minds and hearts (including our own), something has gone wrong. The truth that is uncovered this week is that rejection of Jesus' words is not the exception but the rule. Jesus' words will always offend. However, we will see that God can use even the rejection of his Word for good.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Common Service with Communion—Page 15

Lay Liturgist—Chris Ragner

Accompanist—Teresa Ennen

OPENING HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made And end - less
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Praise his great
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: The pris - 'ner

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
prais - es with crown his head; His name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es
leaps, un - loosed his chains, The wea - ry find e -

shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.

5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Worship and honor to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., ali.
Tune: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, Part II, London, 1789

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: A - men.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

C: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-6 (NIV84)

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. 5 Aliens will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. 6 And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 146

p. 120

Refrain

I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,*

in mortal men, who cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,*

the maker of heaven and earth.

Refrain

The LORD gives food to the hungry,*

the LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind,*

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

The LORD watches over the outcast*

and sustains the fatherless and the widow.

The LORD remains faithful forever.*

He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,*

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Lynn Trapp. © 1989 MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 4:23-31 (NIV84)

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “ ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.’ 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

VERSE OF THE DAY

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. (Luke 4:18)



STAND

M: The Gospel is from Luke, chapter 4, beginning at verse 16.



GOSPEL

Luke 4:16-30 (NIV84)

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, 21 and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked. 23 Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’ ” 24 “I tell you the truth,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.” 28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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 fully 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.

BE SEATED

1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer
 3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him And gold and in - cense
 4 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on his throne shall

Son! Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on
 wrong, To help the poor and need - y And bid the
 bring; All na - tions shall a - dore him; His praise all
 rest, From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing

earth be - gun! He comes to break op - pres - sion, To
 weak be strong, To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their
 peo - ple sing. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And
 and all - blest. The tide of time shall nev - er His

set the cap - tive free, To take a - way trans -
 dark - ness turn to light Whose souls, con - demned and
 dai - ly vows as - cend, His king - dom still in -
 cov - e - nant re - move; His name shall stand for -

GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS

OFFERING

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

(Special prayers and intercessions may follow.)

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

(Silent prayer.)

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

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gres - sion, And rule in eq - ui - ty.
dy - ing, Are pre - cious in his sight.
creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.
ev - er — That name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, abr., alt.
Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532-c. 1601
Setting © 1982 Concordia Publishing House

FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN CHRISTEN
76 76 D
Alternate setting: 289

SERMON

Reception Uncovered

Luke 4:16-30

STAND

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

BE SEATED

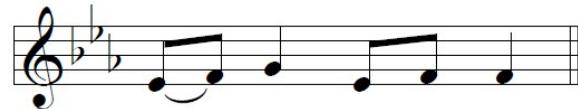
LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BE SEATED

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: 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

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD
Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness; Leave be - hind all
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, And with lov - ing
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther cost nor
4 Now I kneel be - fore you low - ly, Filled with joy most

gloom and sad - ness. Come in - to the day - light's splen - dor;
rev - 'rence greet him, For with words of life im - mor - tal
pain will mea - sure, But the price - less gifts of heav - en
deep and ho - ly, As with trem - bling awe and won - der

There with joy your prais - es ren - der Un - to
He is knock - ing at your por - tal. O - pen
God to us has free - ly giv - en. Though the
On your might - y work I pon - der, How by

him whose grace un - bound - ed Has this won - drous
 wide the gates be - fore him, Say - ing, as you
 wealth of earth were prof - fered, Naught would buy the
 mys - ter - y sur - round - ed, Depths that no one

sup - per found - ed. Though he reigns a - bove most
 there a - dore him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 ev - er sound - ed. None may dare to pierce un -

ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive you, That I nev - er - more will leave you.
 riv - en, And his blood, for you once giv - en.
 bid - den Se - crets that with you are hid - den.

5 Human reason, though it ponders,
 Cannot fathom these great wonders,
 That Christ's body must be boundless
 Since the souls it feeds are countless,
 And that he his blood is giving
 With the wine we are receiving.
 These great mysteries unsounded
 Are by God alone expounded.

7 Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor,
 Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,
 Jesus, Joy of my desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring —
 At your feet I cry, my Maker:
 Let me be a fit partaker
 Of this blessed food from heaven
 For our good, your glory, given.

6 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You have left your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forgo all joy and gladness
 And to shed your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you,
 Let me gladly here obey you.
 By your love I am invited;
 Be your love with love requited.
 By this supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace you give me
 As your guest in heav'n receive me.

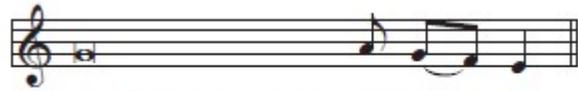
STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing
 to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre -
 pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
 Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: 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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God,
 3 The name of Je - sus calms our fears
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin;

My great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my
 As - sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the
 And bids our sor - rows cease. 'Tis mu - sic in the
 He sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the

God and King, The tri - umphs of his grace!
 earth a - broad, The hon - ors of your name.
 sin - ner's ears; 'Tis life and health and peace.
 foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.

5 See all your sins on Jesus laid;
 The Lamb of God was slain.
 His life was once an off'ring made
 That you might live again.

6 Glory to God and praise and love
 Be ever, ever giv'n
 By saints below and saints above,
 The Church in earth and heav'n.

THIS WEEK AT BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

Sunday January 23 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion
(also Zoom, YouTube)

10:15 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Adult Bible Class

Thursday January 27 4:35 PM Catechism Class
6:30 PM Out to Dinner K-Group

Sunday January 30 9:00 AM Worship
(also Zoom, YouTube)

10:15 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Adult Bible Class

Zoom:<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6801341226?pwd=aGJPYzlyK2FSaG5PZndpY0VuNEtDUT09>

YouTube:<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOplwmjcStamZeoTS4GihFw/videos?view=57&flow=grid>

Thursday Jan 27 6:30 PM 2022 Monthly Out-to-Dinner K-Group

Weather permitting we will be going to
El Patron Mexican Restaurant & Cantina, 6350 Douglas, Urbandale

Contact Carolyn Stroh to be added to the reservation list.
carolynstroh1767@gmail.com
(515) 720-0610

Compelled by Christ's love, the members of Beautiful Savior glorify God by
***Growing in the faith, Gathering together as believers,
and Going to our neighbors with the gospel***

If you are new to the area or looking for a church to call your own, please accept our invitation to meet our pastor (after the service, or by appointment at your convenience). Please come and worship with us again.

Beautiful Savior is part of a group of more than 1300 churches congregations united by a common faith in Christ's saving love, called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico & Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work.

We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), and the broader Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).

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<https://wels.net/>

<https://els.org/>

<https://celc.info/>

*Unless otherwise noted, Scripture readings are from the
[Evangelical Heritage Version EHV](#)*

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God's Word for This Week: **Jesus is Our Long-Foretold Savior**

Jesus "going public" should not have surprised his Jewish countrymen. They had known of the coming Messiah for a long time, dating back to the promise given Abraham (Genesis 12:3), even to Eden (Genesis 3:15). Yet, when Jesus finally arrived, "his own did not receive him" (John 1:10). He was not the kind of Savior that many were looking for. That too was foretold: "He was despised and rejected by men" (Isaiah 53:3).

First Lesson – Isaiah 61:1-6

Who is speaking in these verses?

What would the Savior come to do according to Isaiah?

What promise does the Lord make to Christians in verse 6?

Second Lesson – Acts 4:23-31

When Peter and John were released from imprisonment, the believers in Jerusalem responded with prayer. Why did they begin by reminding God of all he had made?

Why did the believers turn next in their prayer to what God had said in Psalm 2, about a thousand years earlier?

Were Herod and Pilate helpless pawns on God's chessboard?

Gospel – Luke 4:14-21

What Scripture did Jesus read in Nazareth's synagogue?

What amazing words did Jesus use to conclude his reading?

God's Word for This Week: Answers from last Sunday

First Lesson – Isaiah 62:1-5

Who is speaking in these verses through the prophet Isaiah? For instance, who's the "I" of verse one?

The pre-incarnate Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, is the speaker.

For whose sake would Jesus do what he did as our Savior?

Jesus says that he would speak "for Zion's sake" and "for Jerusalem's sake." (In the Old Testament, "Zion" and "Jerusalem" often represent the people of God, the Church. That is the case in these verses.) In other words, Jesus serves as our advocate; he speaks on our behalf before his heavenly Father. (See 1 John 2:1; Romans 8:34.)

What is the result of Jesus' gracious work for his people?

No longer are we estranged from our heavenly Father because of our sin. Instead, the Lord delights in us (Hephzibah), and we are "married" (Beulah) to him. All this is a result of Jesus' work as our gracious Savior.

Second Lesson – Ephesians 3:14-21

Jesus came to visit a wedding in Cana. What does Paul pray for the Christians in Ephesus, by contrast? (See 3:17.)

Paul prays that Christ may not just visit but dwell in the hearts of believers through their trust in Christ.

Nobody knew how Jesus turned water into wine. Likewise, what does Paul want Christians to know? (See 3:19.)

Paul wants Christians to know the love that surpasses knowledge, the immense love Christ has for us. (Note the irony. How do you truly know something that surpasses knowledge?)

How much is God able to do? (See 3:20-21.)

God is not just able to do what we ask. God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

Gospel – John 2:1-11

What problem arose at the wedding in Cana to which Jesus and his disciples were invited?

The wedding had run out of wine. It was customary in Jesus' day for weddings to be celebrated several days. It seems clear that the wedding hosts had not adequately prepared.

How did Jesus react when Mary told him that they had run out of wine? Why did he react this way?

Jesus wondered why Mary involved him, stating, "My time has not yet come." Jesus seems to be suggesting that it wasn't yet time for him to publicly reveal himself as the promised Savior through his miracles. As it was, the forthcoming miracle seemed to be performed quietly.

What did Jesus do to resolve the problem?

Jesus changed water into wine. Although his disciples trusted in him, it seems his miracle went otherwise unnoticed. (Note also the wondrous kindness of Jesus in performing a miracle that was not necessary but improved a celebration. What a Savior we have, one who loves to do more than he promises and more than we need!)