

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

485 Turnbull Bay Road, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

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The Rev. Robert Vogl Brian Larson, Cantor

Assisting Minister: Jack Ottoson Lector: Marilyn Langenbach

Communion Distribution: Kathy Ottoson, Cheryl Tucker

## *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

*Feb. 16, 2025 at 9:30 am*

*Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.*



## GATHERING

**Prelude**

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Jan Bender

**Welcome**

*Stand*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

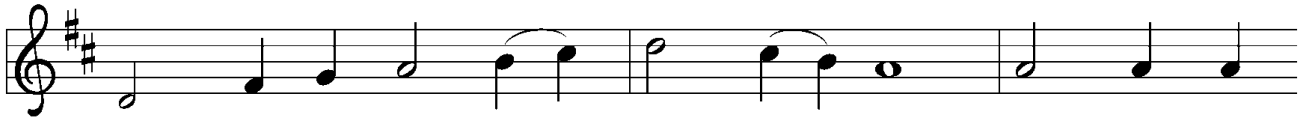
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.** Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

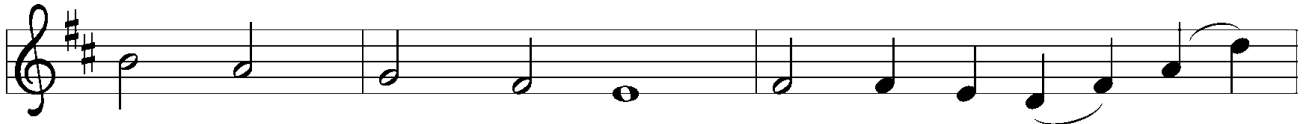
God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

# Gathering Hymn 434

# Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



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.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

## Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Hymn of Praise: *Glory to God*

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Sit*

# WORD

## **First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10**

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

A reading from Jeremiah. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. <sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

## **Psalm 1**

choir/congregation



<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that | do not wither;  
everything they | do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so | with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

A reading from First Corinthians. <sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

## **Children’s Message**

*Stand*

**Gospel Acclamation** sung by the choir

Richard Hillert, LBW 8

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Alleluia.  
The light has shined on the nations who live in the shadow of death.  
Arise, be clothed in light. Your light has come. Alleluia.  
Though darkness covers the earth, the Lord will shine upon you. Alleluia.*

**Gospel:** Luke 6:17-26

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. <sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. <sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**Sermon**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

Please stand when the hymn introduction begins.

## Hymn of the Day 725

## When the Poor Ones



1 Cuan-do el po-bre na-da tie-ne y aún re-par-te,  
1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;  
2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;  
3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;  
4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed y a-gua nos da,  
when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;  
when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;  
when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;  
when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



cuan-do el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:  
when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing:  
when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us:  
when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble:  
when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

### Refrain / Estribillo



Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;  
We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar.  
we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

Text: José Antonio Olivar, b. 1939; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951

Music: EL CAMINO, Miguel Manzano, b. 1934

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**Apostles' Creed** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Sit or kneel*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

*Stand*

**Peace** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*Sit*

### **Setting the Table + Presentation of Gifts**

**Choir**

The Silent Stars Shine Down on Us

Thomas Keesecker

*The silent stars shine down on us with bright but sightless eye,  
unmindful of our little earth, of us who live and die.  
Are we but grains of stranded sand beside a cosmic sea  
that lie unvalued and unseen in such immensity?*

*Creator of all stars you came to grace our transient race.  
In Christ you spoke a word that broke the silences of space.  
Still through that word you call our hearts to know that we are known,  
to trust we do not walk through time unvalued and alone.*

*We see the star the wise men saw and hope again is stirred.  
We track the footprints left in time by your incarnate Word.  
We see them climb a lonely hill where Love is left to die –  
the Love that formed the farthest star and hears the faintest cry.*

*O Christ, the bright and morning Star whose radiance does not fade,  
whose glory filled the universe before the planets played:  
come, heal our hearts of blinding doubt till faith shall end in sight.  
Shine down upon our darkened earth and conquer sin's long night.*

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. , 1923-2007

*Stand*

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



## Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

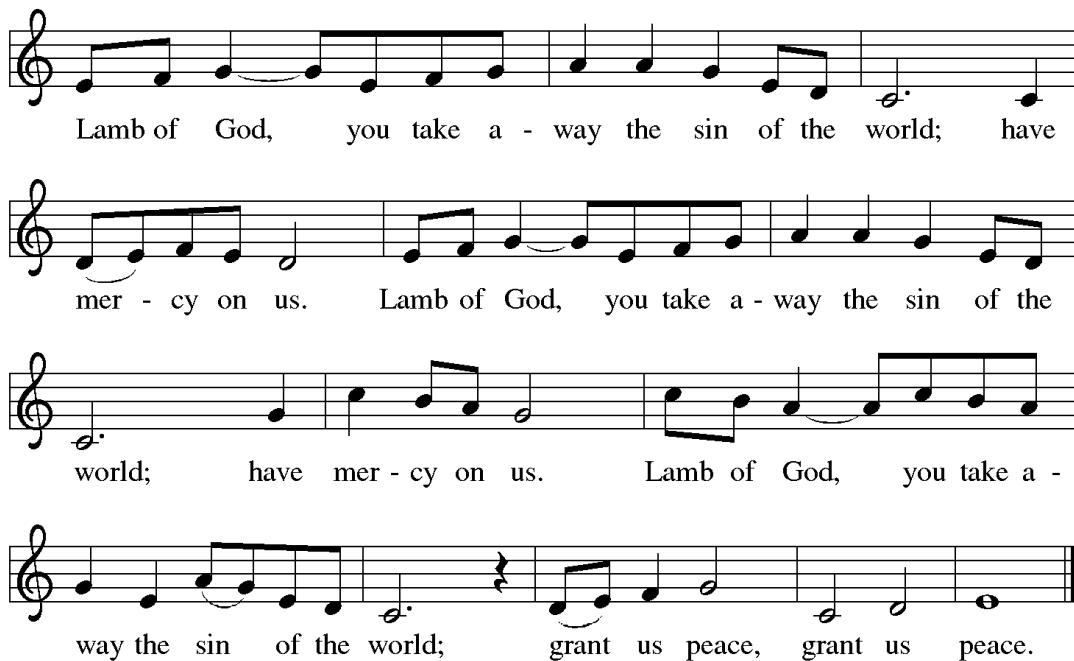
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Sit*

## Invitation to Communion

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask your server.  
Grape juice is in the inner-most ring of glasses in each tray.*

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# Communion Hymn 726

# Light Dawns On a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951  
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*Stand*

## Table Blessing and Communion Prayer

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

A: Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

## SENDING

### Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn 449

## We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
Text © John B. Geyer.

*Sit*

### Announcements

**Dismissal** Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

**Voluntary**

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Max Drischner

*Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments and conversation  
in the fellowship hall following worship.*

### Commemoration this Week

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546 Tues., Feb. 18**

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

The comic strip *Agnus Day* is a lectionary-based comic strip. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh. *Agnus Day* is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor who serves as one of the campus pastors at Valparaiso University. *Agnus Day* appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org).



## Abundance of Blessing

Poverty is not a virtue. It is a curse of our fallen world that will finally be undone when God's reign comes in its fullness. When hunger or homelessness is relieved in this life, it is a foretaste of that great day. Similarly, being hated, especially for the sake of Jesus, is not a goal for which we should strive. Why, then, does Jesus call those who are poor and reviled "blessed"?

The ancient prophet Jeremiah helps us understand Jesus' words. "Cursed are those who . . . make mere flesh their strength. . . . Blessed are those who trust in the LORD" (Jeremiah 17:5, 7). "Flesh" refers here not to our bodies but, rather, to human strength and capability, apart from God. In themselves, wealth, sufficient food, pleasures that bring laughter, and a positive reputation can be good. The problem comes when we base our security, hope, or sense of purpose on them. These good things then become idols. They become "flesh," displacing God from our hearts. Flesh cannot bear that burden, though, and will inevitably fail us. Jesus' words of blessing and woe are not a moral program or an ethical checklist, but shocking pronouncements meant to startle us out of our fixation on human capacities.

Jesus' beatitudes open us to the reality that Jeremiah declared: true blessing comes when we "trust in the LORD." We can risk human rejection, knowing that in baptism, we have been claimed eternally by God. If we are poor, God's word promises that we are treasured by the One who gave up everything for us. When we feel content with earthly food, at the Lord's table we discover that true delight comes from never-ending love present in simple bread and wine. When the song and prayer of the church give voice to lamentation, we find consolation and hope even in our tears.

Woe to us indeed if we allow ourselves to settle for mere human strength, when God's mercy and goodness are so much greater! In the word of the cross and the sacraments of grace, power comes forth from Jesus with blessing, strength, and joy forevermore.