

Historic Scripture Lessons ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ 5th Sunday after Epiphany Old Testament

Jeremiah 17:5-10 NIV This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. 6 He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one live. 7 "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him. 8 He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." 9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? 10 "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

Epistle

Colossians 3:12-17 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the LORD forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the Name of the LORD Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

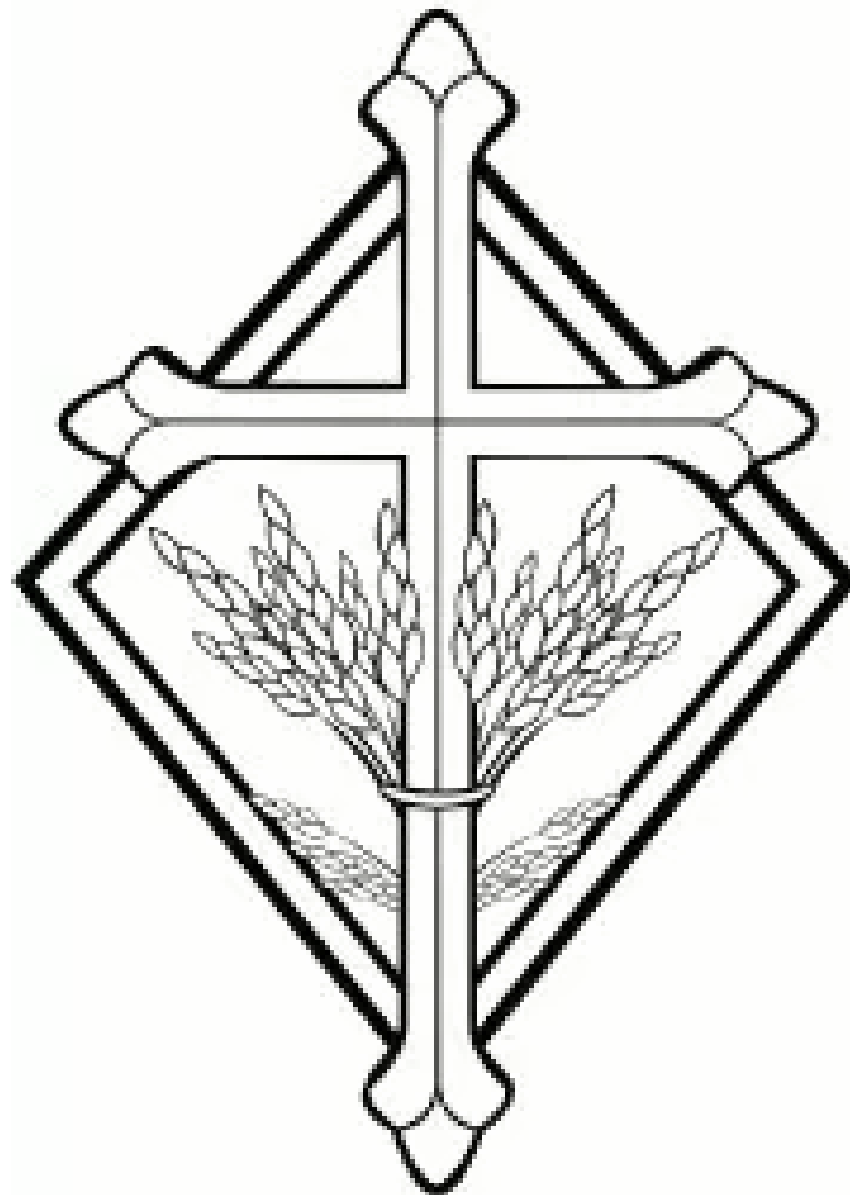
Historic Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30 Jesus told them another Parable: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 28 "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 29 "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the Harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into My Barn.'"

3-Year Gospel B (Sermon Text)

Mark 1:29-39 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever and they told Jesus about her. 31 So He went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. 32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but He would not let the demons speak because they knew Who He was. 35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for Him, 37 and when they found Him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for You!" 38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." 39 So He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ✨ *Election: Spiritual Warfare*
Wheat & Weeds 🕊 February 4th, 2018 🕌 9:30 am



Historic Church Year Symbol Set for 5th Sunday after Epiphany: Matthew 13
Jesus tells the (Election) Parable of the "Wheat and Tares (Weeds)."

OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.osllakeland.org

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✱ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✱ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

February 4th, 2018 Epiphany-5 Christian Warfare

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area or our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take Communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking **Holy Communion.** Thank you for your understanding. LORD's blessings to you.

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP On silver liturgy sheets or red TLH starting p.15.

Service	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Invocation Hymn	467 (7v)	<i>Sing v.1-4</i> Built on The Rock the Church
<i>Psalm 98</i>	98 "4v"	<i>All the Ends of the Earth Have Seen Power</i> 7
Hymn of the Day	292 (9v)	LORD Jesus Christ, with Us Abide
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	644 (1v)	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>
Distribution Hymn	315 (15)	I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table
Closing Hymn	467 (7v)	<i>Sing v.5-7</i> Still we our earthly temples rear

Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays after 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
 Gen. 41:38-57 Gen. 42:1-38 Gen. 43:1-34 Gen. 44:1-34 Gen. 45:1-28 Gen. 46:1-34
 Matt. 15:29-39 Matt. 16:1-12 Matt. 16:21-28 Matt. 17:9-27 Matt. 19:1-15 Mat. 20:17-34

PROPERs for the FIFTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY ✱✱✱✱✱ FEBRUARY 4

INTROIT Worship Him, all you His angels. Zion hears and is glad. The daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments, O LORD. The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice, let the multitude of isles be glad. ...from Psalm 97

COLLECT O God, we beseech You to keep Your Church and household continually in Your Truth, that those who lean only on the hope of Your heavenly grace may evermore be defended by Your mighty power; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our LORD, Who lives, and reigns..." C: ♪ A---men.

PSALM 98 (Refrain) ♪ All the ends of the earth Have seen the Power of God.

GRADUAL The heathen shall fear the Name of the LORD and all the kings of the earth Your Glory. When the LORD shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory. Alleluia! Alleluia! The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice, let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. Alleluia!
 ...from Psalm 126

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *printed on the outside back page of the bulletin →*

O.T. **Jeremiah 17:5-10** God wants Trust in Him, not in oneself.
 Epi. **Colossians 3:12-17** Christian Love binds all things in perfect unity.
 Gos. **Matthew 13:24-30** Jesus tells the Parable of the Wheat & Weeds.

PSALM 98 C: ♪ All the Ends of the Earth, Have Seen the Power of God.
Refrain All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God.

Verse 1. Sing to the LORD a new song, ___ for He has done wondrous deeds; ___
 His Right Hand has won the Vict'ry for Him, His ho-ly Arm. _____

♪ All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends...

Verse 2. The LORD has made His Salvation known, His justice revealed to all; ___
 Remembered His kindness and faithfulness, to Is-rael. _____

♪ All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends...

Verse 3. All the ends of the earth have seen, salva—tion by our God; ___
 Joyfully sing out all you lands, break forth- in song. _____

♪ All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends...

Verse 4. Sing to the LORD with harp and song, ___ with trumpet and with horn; _
 Sing in your joy before the King, The King-, our LORD. _____

♪ All the ends of the earth, have seen the power of God. All the ends of the...

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
	Randy & Sue Smith (Bev Foster)	Bev & Joe in MI. Randy died. Sue sad but faith
	Jim & Elma Hendricks	LORD's will be done. Jim at home. Blood pressure spikes
	Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee was in hospital after falls. Back home, rehabbing
	Sipple Family, Don & Carolyn Miner	Kathy Lane near death. Don shoulder
	Jon Sawyer Sr (Andrea)	Jon is at home. Needs heart transplant, Tampa General
	Martha Sawyer (Jon Sr's mom)	Back home in Mississippi in rehab after strokes
	James Vanesky & Delores Platt	Delores & Jim at home. Both doing rehab

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Joan Patrick	Mary Ford
Treaters	Don & Bev (John Wuolle)	Volunteer

Statistics	Last week	Year to date / Avg.
Sunday Attendance/ LORD'S Supper	35 / (- -)	29 / 25
Bible Class Attendance Sun/Wed	8	8
Sunday Offering for LORD	\$. (including Fish)	YTD Total \$.

Calendar of Events

Today Sunday 4 th	8:30 am	Bible Study Heb. 13 JC, Whose Kin We Are
Epiphany-5 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion)
Spiritual & Warfare	11:00 am	Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk
Wednesday 2/7	6:00 pm	NEW Midweek Bible Study: Jesus' Parables
Thursday 2/8	1:30 pm	OSL February Council Meeting at church
Next Sunday 2/11	8:30 am	Bible Study Heb. 13 JC, Whose Kin We Are
Epiphany-6 (=Last)	9:30 am	Divine Worship (NO Holy Communion)
Transfiguration ✱	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk

Our Savior Elders are: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Steve Wendt 858-3611 & Don Wienke 815-8892. Please contact with any concerns.

February 4 ELS Centennial: Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done: 1918-2018

During this anniversary year, we remember the three "fathers," of the Synod who are Herman Preus, Jakob Ottesen, and Vilhelm Koren. The Rev. H.A. Preus served Spring Prairie Lutheran Church (near Keyser, Wisconsin). He is regarded as the "administrator" of the Synod and served as its president for thirty-two years. At his funeral in 1894, he was remembered as a "scriptural theologian."

Sunday 2/11 Transfiguration (No L.S. p.5) #s 246 Ps. 98 294 343.1 135 341

INTRODUCTION **Straight from the Capernaum synagogue**, Jesus goes off to **Simon Peter's house along with** brother Andrew and James and John. Simon's mother-in-law isn't feeling terribly well. She's been running a bit of a fever. Probably one of those 24-hour bug things. A little rest, a little chicken soup, a couple of aspirin and she'll be fine. It's not a big deal, really, not with all those demon-possessed and diseased people crowding the doorway pushing after Jesus.

Yet there is Jesus, in the little house, **completely there for this woman with the flu**. He comes to her bedside, bends down, takes her by the hand and lifts her up. At that very moment, it's as though there was no one else in the world but this woman. And there is no doubt as to why Jesus is there. **He is there for her**.

He gently lifts her up by the hand, and the fever leaves her, without so much as a Word. He sure makes it look easy, doesn't He? **Simply a touch and the fever is gone**. And to make things even more **unremarkable**, she gets up from her sickbed and begins to serve them. Puts the water on and makes some coffee and sets out some cookies. Nice, but hardly the stuff of headlines.

As miracles go, this is an **UNremarkable** one. Almost not even worth reporting, really. Actually, I'm more surprised to find out that **Peter is married and has a mother-in-law** than that she recovered from her fever after a visit from Jesus. People recover from fevers all the time. Some of you may have recently or even now **still have** this terrible flu bug going around. It hits everyone differently. For some, it may hang on seemingly forever. For others, in the same day you may be feeling fine again and having dinner. **A miracle?** Probably not. You may pray when you're in the "thick of it" (and that's good), but in the end you probably wouldn't classify it as a miracle.

But this Gospel text would have us **REthink and REpent**. We're caught in our own little version of what is called "**materialistic naturalism**" - the notion that **natural events always have a natural cause**. It's a basic assumption in the natural sciences today. It's one way to keep the idea of a Creator **out** of the creation and the curriculum. Nature is natural, and therefore nature must have a natural cause. Of course, it doesn't really explain **how everything can start out from nothing**, but hey, that's about as far as you can go if you want to leave God out of the picture.

Now that may be a bit over your head or off your radar screen or out in left field, which are all ways of saying, "**So what?**" Unless you're **arguing with a Darwinist** or the local school board over science texts, it may not mean all that much and you may not care all that much. But when it comes to the sneezes and sniffles, the colds and flus, and possibly for some even the **cancers and failing hearts and arteries**, we're pretty much materialists. We've been trained by science and medicine to see natural causes as the ultimate cause, the final word on health and healing. If the

fever breaks and the flu goes away and we regain our strength to serve, then **it was the pills we took or our immune system or the vitamin B shot** or whatever. No, I'm not saying *don't go to the doctor, don't take your prescriptions, don't watch your diet and exercise*. These are all **gifts of God** - the doctors, the medicines, the tests, and treatment. But these are instruments, **tools in the toolbox of the Great Physician** in Whom there is life and health. The healing may come through medicines, or even the natural healing processes of our wonderfully designed bodies, but **all healing, regardless of means and methods, comes from Jesus**, the Incarnate Word through Whom we are made and in Whom there is life.

Notice that it's **all the same to Jesus** - whether a case of the flu or a case of the demonic. **He treats it all the same way - with His Touch and His Word**.

Every disease, whether the demons or the diseases, the life threatening or the simply annoying, **is a sign of the Fall**, the disorder of God's ordered creation, the groanings of a world subject to futility, decay and death. Every illness, including those little colds and flus, are signs of our own death, mirrors of our mortality reflecting that harsh reality that we are natural born children of Adam subject to Adam's death. Every healing, including the little ones when the fever breaks at the end of the day, are "little resurrections," small reminders that the One Who suffered for our sins on the Cross is our health and strength. *"By His wounds we are healed."*

What Jesus did for that mob outside the house of Peter's mother-in-law, He does for this poor, fever-stricken woman with His own personal Touch. Jesus **could have wiped out all disease** in the world in one blast of His Word, one divine flu shot to cover the whole world. **But that isn't His way**. Instead, He bends down to touch this woman in her own home. And then He spends the greater part of the afternoon and evening doing the same for others.

He draws all to Himself in His being lifted up on the Cross, embracing and embodying the world. **He is God's love to the world**. And yet He applies this **gift personally, individually, to each one - in Baptism**, as the water is poured on you. In the **Absolution**, as hands are touched to your head and words of life and forgiveness are put into your ears. In the **Supper**, where you receive with your mouths the gifts of His sacrifice, His own Body and Blood, touching you, taking you by the hand, lifting you up from the fever of your sin and death, raising you to a life of grateful service. All of it *"for you,"* just as personally *"for her/you"* as Jesus was for Peter's mother-in-law.

Early in the morning, before sunrise, **Jesus arose and went off by Himself to pray**. You would think He would ride this wave of celebrity. The crowds were great, the word was out, the opportunity was great. But Jesus goes off by Himself to pray. The disciples go looking for Jesus and tell Him what He already knows: *Everyone is looking for you*. And His response? *"Let's go to another town, that I may preach there also; that's why I came."*

He didn't come to put a **temporary bandage** on our wounds. You know what happens to bandages; they wash off in the next shower. Jesus came to heal our wounds ultimately and finally, once and for all. He came to preach, to proclaim the Kingdom, the whole Kingdom, and nothing but the Kingdom; to suffer, die, and rise and so to deal decisively with the cause of disease and death.

The fact is **Peter's mother-in-law would get sick again**. There would be other colds and flus and fevers. One day, she would die from one of them. The medical report and her obituary would read that she "*Died of natural causes.*" Again, that naturalism of ours. **Death by natural causes, as if death were nothing more than the natural order of things.**

The ultimate cause of death is **anything but natural**. It is the **UNnatural wages of our sin**, the chaos of our rebellion, the disorder of our humanity living in denial of God and making gods out of ourselves. All those diseased and demonized people whom Jesus healed would **one day die of something**. But they would know, as Peter's mother-in-law would know, in Whom to trust in the day - the One Who **touched** them with His healing Touch, Who **silenced** their demons with a Word, Who **hung** on a Cross in the darkness, Who **Rose** from the dead in the early morning. They would know that though they die, still **in Jesus they would live**, and living and trusting Jesus, they would **never die forever**.

In some of the new(er) hymnals there is an interesting **change in the post-Communion blessing**. Now some of them say, "*The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you **in body and soul** to life everlasting.*" We used to say "***in the true faith,***" but now we say "***in body and soul.***" While I greatly appreciate the old and its emphasis on right believing, the new is a reminder that **Jesus came to deal with our death and conquer it**, that what is **good for our souls is also good for our bodies**, that He is the Ultimate Source and Cause of our own health and strength, and that there is a coming Day when we will finally realize and receive this in our own bodies, when **Jesus bends down to our grave, takes us by the hand**, and awakens us from death to Life just as He once raised Peter's mother-in-law from her sickbed.

CONCLUSION You too, dear baptized believer. **You've been touched by God in the water of your Baptism. You hear the Word of His preaching. You receive His Supper**, what the ancient church called the "medicine of immortality." You have His Word of Promise to you. "*Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but you who wait for the Lord shall renew your strength; you shall mount up with wings like eagles; you shall run and not be weary; you shall walk and not faint.*" **IJ'N, Amen. SDG**

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ✧ *A Case of the (24hr) Flu?*
Jesus' Personal Healing 🙏 February 4th, 2018 9:30 am

Possible Prayer of Church for +✠✠✠+ 5th Sunday after Epiphany February 4th

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible Brief silence)

Father of glory, You are great in mercy, abundant in power and Your understanding is beyond measure. Remember Your whole Church throughout the world. Renew and strengthen Your children as they wait patiently for Your glorious salvation to be revealed. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You send forth messengers to preach the Gospel. Help all servants of the Word to proclaim Your truth with joy and zeal. Guard and protect them from the assaults of the evil one and their own flesh. Give them grace to live self-controlled and disciplined lives, that Your name may be hallowed. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ruler of all, You sit enthroned above all human might and power. Give to all entrusted with authority among us wisdom to recognize Your rule and humility to serve the common good of our citizens. Remember all in our armed forces and our first responders in every community, and protect them in their service. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Kind One, as the people of Capernaum gathered about Your Son, bringing to Him all who were in need, we bring before You in prayer this day all who are sad and lonely, the sick and injured, the hospitalized and homebound, the anguished and despairing [*and all we have been asked to remember, especially Your servants OSL Prayer List*]

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Sue Smith (Bev Foster)	Bev & Joe in MI.	Randy died. Sue sad but faith
Jim & Elma Hendricks	LORD's will be done.	Jim at home. Blood pressure spikes
Dee Kurczewski (David)	Dee was in hospital after falls.	Back home, rehabbing
Sipple Family, Don & Carolyn Miner	Kathy Lane near death.	Don shoulder
Jon Sawyer Sr (Andrea)	Jon is at home. Needs heart transplant,	Tampa General
Martha Sawyer (Jon Sr's mom)	In Mississippi in rehab after her TIAs & strokes	
James Vanesky & Delores Platt	Delores & Jim at home. Both doing rehab	

Heal the broken-hearted, bind up their wounds and give Your people grace to trust Your unfailing love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You lift up the humble. Grant to all who come to the Altar this day the humility to trust Christ's promise as He comes to give us **His true Body and Blood** for our forgiveness and to give us a share in His own divine life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Father, Your Son has promised to raise all the dead and give to all who trust in Him eternal life. Receive our thanksgiving for **Your faithful ones who have fallen asleep in Christ** [*including **Randy Smith**, son-in-law of **Bev Foster***] and who await the moment of their final and full healing at the Resurrection of the dead. Bring us with them to share in the joy of His glorious appearing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen. Then, the Lord's Supper...**