



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*Rejection Is Not Proof of Failure*

January 26, 2025





4651 Kernan Blvd S,  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
(904) 642-8900

8:00am Worship  
9:15am Bible Class and  
Sunday School  
10:30am Worship with  
Livestream

victorylutheran.org



*Find us on Facebook,  
Instagram, and YouTube!*



*Victory is affiliated with  
the Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod.*

# Welcome to Victory!

- Thank you for choosing to worship the Triune God with us! May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you as we join together in worship.
- We prepare for worship by quietly meditating on the theme for the day and respectfully listening to the music chosen and prepared by our musicians.
- If you are looking for a church home, we would be thrilled to serve your spiritual needs. Our name comes from 1 Corinthians 15:57: **“Thanks be to God! He gives us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ!”**
- Our mission as a Christian congregation is to: “Win souls for Christ and coach Christians for life.”
- Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder to give us a record of your visit, and so we can properly thank you for joining us!
- Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both the women’s and men’s restrooms.
- A Quiet Room for children who need a quiet moment with a caretaker is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

## Today's Worship: Rejection Is Not Proof of Failure

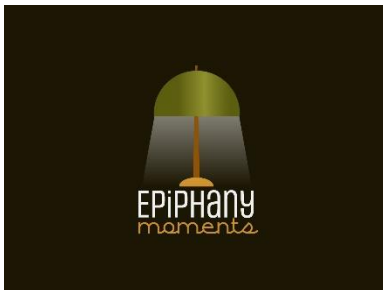
When you are trying to share some important information with someone, but they refuse to listen or perhaps totally reject what you are saying, it feels like you have failed. This is especially true when someone rejects the gospel! We proclaim the good news because we want others to know the love of Christ. When people are disinterested in God's Word, we feel like we've failed.

So, here is this week's epiphany. Rejection is not proof of failure. Precisely because the gospel is divine revelation, it is guaranteed to be rejected by many. God's Word offends like an unwelcome diagnosis from the doctor. When someone rejects God's Word (including us), that rejection is proof that God's Word powerfully cuts straight to the heart of mankind's biggest problem—sin. Yet, what causes Jesus' words to hurt is what gives them power to heal. That reality encourages us to receive God's Word with joy and to proclaim it boldly to others.

## Current Sermon Series: Epiphany Moments

"Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." When someone has an epiphany, it's not that reality changed. The way they see that reality is what changed, for a deeper truth has been revealed. An epiphany is an "a-ha!" moment causing us to look at things very differently.

In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will come to understand that when we have Jesus in our lives, it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently (and better). Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments.



Jan. 26	Rejection Is Not Proof of Failure
Feb. 2	Popularity Is Not Proof of Success
Feb. 9	The Least Qualified Are the First Sent

# Service of Morning Praise



## Hymn Sing Sunday

### Invocation

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

### Opening Sentences

*Minister/Congregation*

**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips.

**C** And my mouth shall de-clare your praise.

**L** Hasten to save me, O God.

**C** O Lord, come quickly to help me.



**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**C** Come, oh, come, let us wor - ship.

## Come, Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

*Venite*

*Congregation*



Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,



let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;



come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,



*Repeat for use with canon*

come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



*Verses*

1. You are a great and a won - drous God,
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,

cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.

You made the hills and the moun - tains high,  
You are the God whom we call our own,

*to Refrain*  
you made the seas and the dry - land.  
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

## Confession of Sins

In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden, we confess our sins.

**I confess that I am by nature sinful. I am guilty of, and troubled by my sins. For all this I am sorry. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

**Yes, I believe.**

By the authority of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. You are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

**Amen.**

# The Word

## Prayer of the Day

Rejoicing in the forgiveness of our sins, let us pray:

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and 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.

**Amen.**

## First Reading

*Isaiah 61:1-6*

*God promised forgiveness and freedom for captive Israel, who had rejected him*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to proclaim 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,  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup>and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
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.

<sup>4</sup>They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.

<sup>5</sup>Strangers will shepherd your flocks;  
foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

<sup>6</sup>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.

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

## Psalm of the Day

*Psalm 146A | I Will Praise the Lord All My Life*

## Second Reading

*Acts 4:23–31*

*The apostles prayed for boldness in the face of opposition*

<sup>23</sup>On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup>When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup>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?

<sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth rise up  
and the rulers band together  
against the Lord  
and against his anointed one.’



<sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. <sup>29</sup>Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. <sup>30</sup>Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

<sup>31</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*Luke 4:16-30*

*Even in his hometown, people took offense at Jesus's words and ultimately rejected him*

<sup>16</sup>He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,

<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

<sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

<sup>22</sup>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.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

<sup>24</sup>“Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup>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.”

<sup>28</sup>All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup>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 off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Children's Message

*All children are invited to join Pastor Phil at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.*

## Children's Church (10:30am Service)

*Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.*



## Hymn of the Day

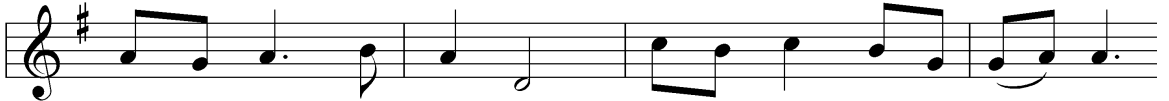
CW384 | Hail to the Lord's Anointed

# Jesus Faces Rejection at Home

## You Are God; We Praise You

*Te Deum*

*Congregation*



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.

### *Verses*



- 1. With the an - gels in heav - en,
- 2. Cre - a - tor of all things, **We praise you, we**
- 3. O Christ, King of glo - ry,



praise you! With the cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim, **We**  
 O Je - sus Christ, the Son of God,  
 You be - came a man to set us free;



praise you, we praise you! With a - pos - tles and proph - ets, **We**  
 O Spir - it, most ho - ly,  
 You have ris - en to free us;



praise you, we praise you! With the mar - tyrs and your  
 To the Trin - i - ty most  
 And with all your saints in



ho - ly Church, *to Refrain*  
 bless - ed, We sing in end - less praise! *to Refrain*  
 glo - ry, *to Final Refrain*

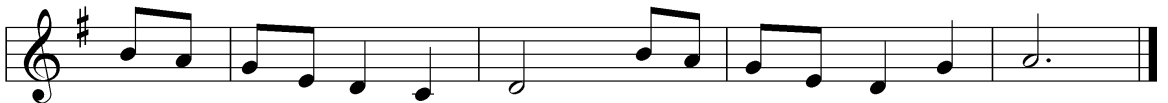
*Final Refrain*



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise,



all cre - a-tion of - fers praise, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.

# Offering

*Guests: This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Victory Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work in Jacksonville, St. Johns County, and beyond. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to participate in this offering, but don't feel forced to! You can also give an online thank offering by using the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.*



*Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.*

# Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Minister/Congregation

**L** In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you;  
be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

## Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

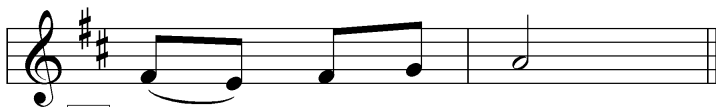
**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## 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.



**L** Let us praise the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Blessing

*Minister/Congregation*



**L** The Lord bless and keep you.



**C** A - men.



**L** The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



**C** A - men.



**L** The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



**C** A - men.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Today we welcome these families who have joined Victory in the last six months.

Arthur and Holly Bond; Annelyse, Arthur, Ellanor and Evelyn  
Lisa and Shepard Evans  
Lisa Grimmer  
Jeanine Heller  
Zack and Katarena Seelman; Kalista, Leander and Lowell

May the Lord Jesus bless your stay with us in the Victory Family as we joyfully work together to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus, Christ.

Closing Hymn

*CWg29 | May the Peace of God*







## Organist

Mrs. Anne Grotefend

## Acknowledgments

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## Offerings Received January 19, 2025

General Fund: \$7101.50

Building Fund \$25.00

Debt Reduction \$200.00

Missions \$50.00

**Total Weekly Offerings Deposit: \$7376.50**

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### 2025 Weekly General Offering Need:

\$8961.54

### 2025 General Offering Need to Date:

\$26,884.62

### 2025 Total General Offerings Received to Date: \$21,921.50

*(\$4963.12) from Need to Date 2025*

### 2024 Total Income as of 12/31 \$792,238.05

**(Includes Church and School Income)**



# MY WORSHIP NOTES



*For children to use during worship.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of the church season or special day today? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue   White   Purple   Red   Green

The Sermon Text Was: \_\_\_\_\_



This is in the:    Old Testament    New Testament

What was the sermon about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



My favorite song today was:



\_\_\_\_\_

Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

- Yes  
 No



Communion?

- Yes  
 No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Sermon Notes



# VICTORY

## LUTHERAN

### Church & Preschool

#### Contact Information

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Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS),  
headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

