

Narrative Lectionary—Year 2—Week 12



**2 Kings 22-23:
Josiah's Legacy, Our Legacy, The Lord's Legacy
as we await the Last Day**

**Sunday, November 26, 2023
Last Sunday of the Church Year**

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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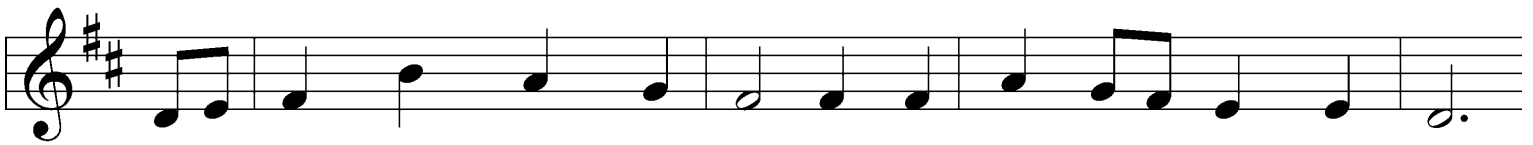
NARRATIVE LECTIONARY – YEAR 2

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Year 2 of the Narrative Lectionary from the appointed readings from the Old Testament, Acts, and 1 Corinthians.

Opening Hymn

O Word of God Incarnate

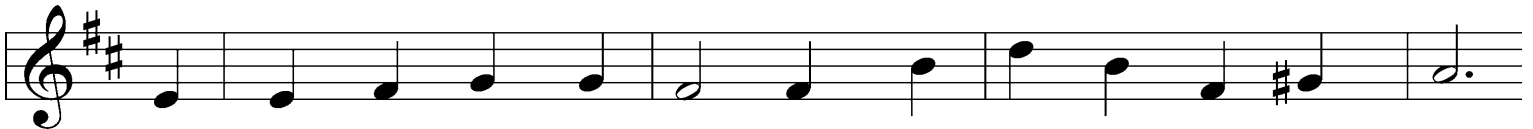
LSB 523



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav-ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

Invocation (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-6)

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

C: Amen.

P: Years ago Moses said, "Hear, O Israel." Today I say, "Hear, O people of God."

C: **We hear!**

P: Then declare the words of faith which God gave to your ancestors through Moses:

C: **The LORD is our God,
the LORD is one!**

We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength.

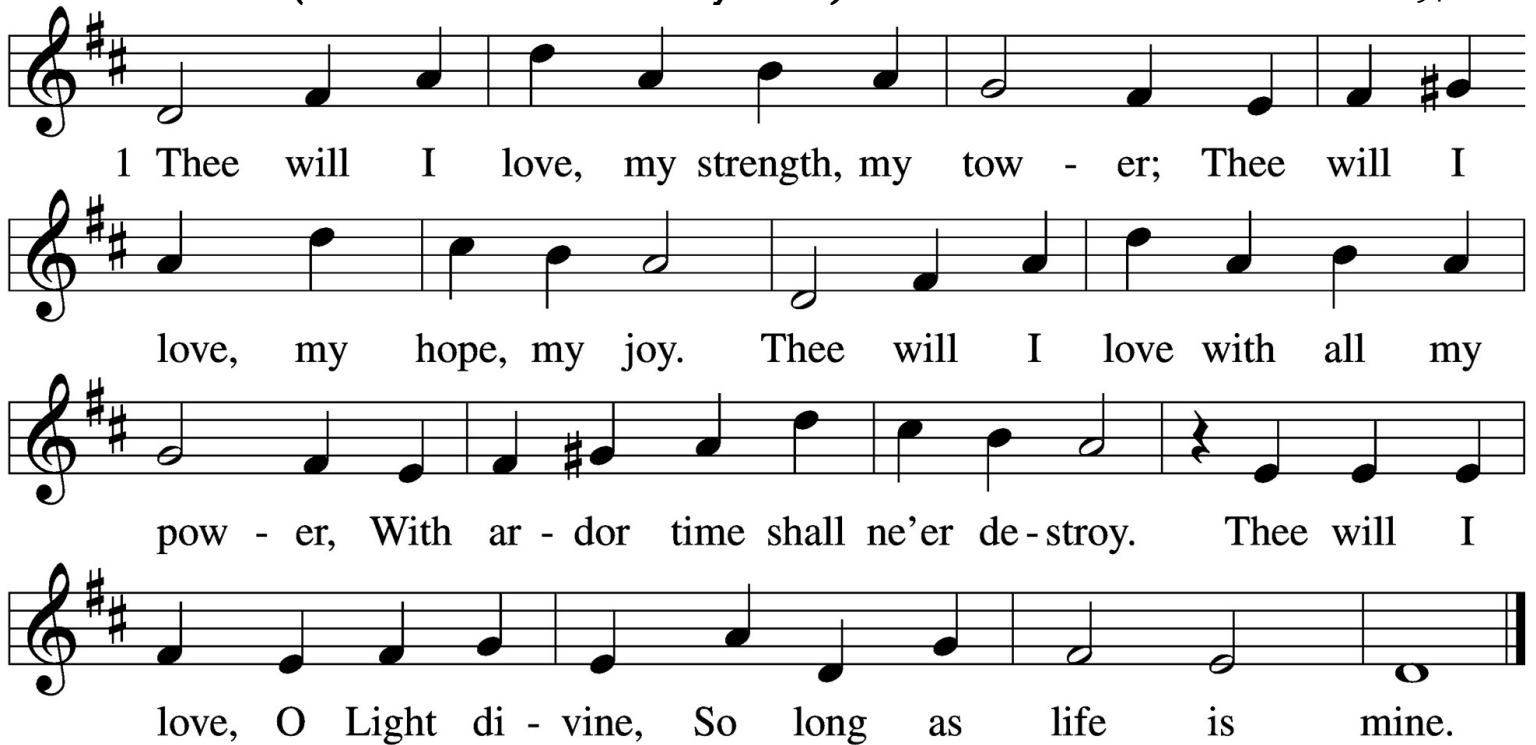
P: Keep these words in mind today even as we enter into His presence in worship.

C: **The LORD is our God,
the LORD is one!**

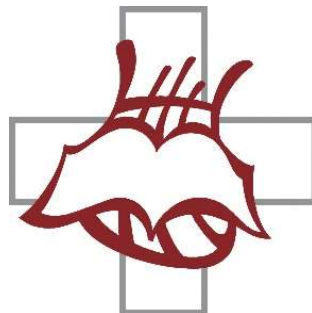
We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength. Amen.

Verse of Praise (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

LSB 694 st. 1



1 Thee will I love, my strength, my tow - er; Thee will I
love, my hope, my joy. Thee will I love with all my
pow - er, With ar - dor time shall ne'er de - stroy. Thee will I
love, O Light di - vine, So long as life is mine.



Confession and Absolution (Hosea 11:1-9)

P: The Lord spoke to His people through the prophet Hosea:

“The more I summoned them, the farther they departed from Me.
They sacrificed to the Baal idols and burned incense to images.”

C: *We, too, are confronted with our sin:*

God took us by the arm,

but we did not acknowledge that He has saved us.

God lifted the yoke of sin from our necks,

placing the burden on Jesus,

but we have often refused to repent!

We look for help in ourselves and in others and in false things.

We know we continue to turn away from the Lord God.

Forgive our sinful hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ who died and rose again. Amen.

P: Again the Lord spoke to His people through the prophet Hosea,
and He speaks these words of His enduring love to us:

“How can I give you up? How can I surrender you?

How can I treat you like a people destined for destruction?

How can I make you like a city wiped off the face of the Earth?

I will show you mercy, pulling back the punishment that you deserve.

All My tender compassions are aroused.

I will not carry out My fierce anger!

I cannot totally destroy you!

Because I am God—the Holy One among you—

I will not come in wrath!”

Therefore, based on this promise of God’s steadfast love, in the stead and by the
command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*



Song of Praise (based on Hosea 11:8-9)

Tune: LSB 816

1 The Lord God will not give up you, And He will not sur-
2 In Je - sus He shows stead - fast love; He puts His wrath on -

ren - der you; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
to His Son; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

He will not wipe out or con - demn; He will show mer - cy
You now are ho - ly in His sight; Je - sus has giv - en

to the end; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
you His life; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Preparation for the Reading of the Word (based on 2 Kings 23:1-3)

P: When King Josiah heard that a lost and forgotten book of God's Word had been found in the temple, he called together all of the people, and like today

C: all the people were there, from the youngest to the oldest.

P: The king read aloud all the words of the scroll of the covenant. He called on the people to commit themselves to God's Word, as we do today:

C: all the people are here, from the youngest to the oldest, to hear God's own Word. Amen.

Today's Narrative Lectionary Reading

2 Kings 22:1-8 (VOICE)

Josiah was 8 years old when he inherited the throne. His reign in Jerusalem lasted 31 years. His mother was Jedidah (daughter of Adaiah from Bozkath). ² Josiah was righteous in the Eternal's eyes. He continually did what was right, just as his ancestor David had. He did not ever step away from the righteous path.

³ During Josiah's 18th year as king, he dispatched his minister of state, Shaphan (son of Azaliah and grandson of Meshullam), to the Eternal's house with instructions.

Josiah: ⁴ Visit the priest, Hilkiah, and ask him to give us an account of the finances that have been collected by the doorkeepers from those who enter the Eternal's temple. ⁵ Tell them to give it to the workers who watch over the Eternal's temple, to the repairmen who keep the place in good condition, ⁶ to the carpenters and builders and masons for purchasing the wood and cut stones to keep the temple in working order. ⁷ There is no need to document the financial exchange with these workers because they are honest in their dealings.

[When Shaphan went to Hilkiah, the priest said]:

Hilkiah: ⁸ I have discovered the book of the law in the Eternal's house.

Song of Praise

Thy Word

Refrain



Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet And a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a - fraid, think I've lost my way,
2 I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet My



Still You're there right be - side me. And
heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing.



noth - ing will I fear as long as You are near.
 Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;

And
Refrain



Please be near me to the end. _____
 I will love You to the end. _____

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 Text: Amy Grant, 1960 Tune: Michael W. Smith, 1957

Reading Continued

2 Kings 22:8-23:3 (VOICE)

Hilkiah then handed the book of the law to Shaphan, and Shaphan read through it. ⁹Shaphan the secretary returned to the king with a report.

Shaphan (to King Josiah): Those who serve you in the Eternal’s house have given every last cent of the money to the workers who keep the Eternal’s house in good condition. ¹⁰While I was delivering your instructions, Hilkiah the priest handed me an old book.

Shaphan then read the old book aloud to the king. ¹¹While the king listened to the words of the book of law, he was filled with sorrow, and he tore his garments. ¹²Then the king gave a command to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam (Shaphan’s son), Achbor (Micaiah’s son), Shaphan the minister of state, and Asaiah (one of the king’s advisors).

Josiah: ¹³Go and speak to the Eternal One on my behalf, and also on behalf of the people and all of Judah. Speak to Him about this book and all that it commands. There is a wrathful fire on its way to us from Him, all because our ancestors before us did not obey the instructions of this book or do all that is written concerning us.

¹⁴Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to visit the prophetess Huldah (Shallum’s wife). Shallum was Tikvah’s son, and Tikvah was the son of Harhas, who was in charge of the clothing and garments. Huldah lived in the second quarter of Jerusalem. Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah spoke to her.

Huldah: ¹⁵This is the message of the Eternal God of Israel: “Go back and speak to the one who told you to speak to Me that ¹⁶the Eternal says, ‘I will bring a wicked cloud of disaster over this land and those who live within it. It will be just as it is written in all the words of the book read by the king of Judah. ¹⁷Because they have turned their backs on Me and

have been *promiscuous* with other gods, burning incense for them and causing My anger to *boil* with all their wicked deeds, *the fire of My wrath* will consume them and be *inextinguishable*.”

¹⁸ But tell Judah’s king, the one who told you to visit me and speak to the Eternal One *on his behalf*, “This is the message of the Eternal God of Israel: ‘Concerning what you have heard, ¹⁹ your heart was *gentle and concerned* about My commands. You were humble before the Eternal because of the warnings of desolation I gave to this place and to those who dwell within it. You even tore your garments and cried before Me. *Because you have done all this*, I have certainly heard your *sincerity*,’ proclaims the Eternal One.

²⁰ “Observe! I am going to bring you to be with your ancestors, and you will meet the grave peacefully, so that you will not have to witness the *wicked cloud of disaster* I will bring to *shadow* this land *and all those who dwell within it*.”

Then Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah returned to the king and gave him the *Lord’s message, as sent through Huldah the prophetess*.

^{23:1} The king ordered an assembly of all of Judah’s and Jerusalem’s elders. ² He then went to the Eternal’s temple with all the citizens of Jerusalem and the men of Judah, as well as the priests and prophets and people of all statuses, and he read to them everything in the covenant book that was discovered in the Eternal’s house.

³ While standing next to the *sacred pillar*, the king proclaimed a covenant before the Eternal One. *He promised to follow the Eternal, to obey His commands and laws and testaments with all his being. He promised to honor every word of the covenant book that had been discovered in the temple*. Everyone who was present entered into the covenant with the king.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

All the people are here, from the youngest to the oldest, to hear God’s own Word. Amen.

Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2023.

Liturgy Scripture passages taken from / adapted from New English Translation.

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Collect adapted from <https://sheridanlutheran.org/2017/06/devotion-king-josiah/>

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Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: Let us pray. Dear Father, thank You for Your servant, King Josiah, and the others whom You led to find the Book of the Law, to read it and proclaim it and call the people to commit to You again. Open our hearts, minds, and souls to the desire to be transformed by Your Holy Word. May we be found to remain steadfast in our focus on Your Word and sharing it with the world. In Your precious Son's Name,

C: Amen.

Hymn of the Day

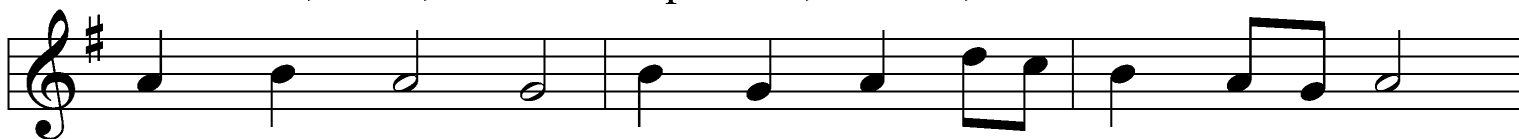
Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LSB 904

Like the people of Judah ad Jerusalem, we are gathered to hear God's Word



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
△ 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and



all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,



Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

Text (sts. 1-3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-84; (sts. 1-3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.;
(st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, 1707, Berlin; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.; Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625-73, alt.

Children's Message

Sermon

Sermon Response

God's Word is Our Great Heritage

LSB 582



God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for -
ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way, In death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its
teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Confession of Faith (spoken in unison)

1 Corinthians 15:1-6a,20-22,58 (ESV)

P: Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:

C: *that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Amen.*

P: Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory (Based on Genesis 2 and Isaiah 11:2)

LSB 500 sts. 1, 3

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's foun - da - tions
3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high; Your sev'n - fold gifts to



first were laid, Come, vis - it ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come,
us sup - ply; Help us e - ter - nal truths re - ceive And



pour Your joys on hu - man - kind; From sin and sor - row
prac - tice all that we be - lieve; Give us Your - self that



set us free; May we Your liv - ing tem - ples be.
we may see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

Benediction (Blessing) (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-8)

P: Hear, O people of God.

C: *We hear!*

P: Declare the words of faith which God gave to your ancestors through Moses:

C: *The LORD is our God,
the LORD is one!*

We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength.

P: Keep these words in mind as you go from this place. Teach them to your children and speak of them as you sit in your house, as you walk along the road, as you lie down, and as you get up. May the Lord God keep these words of faith in your heart in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

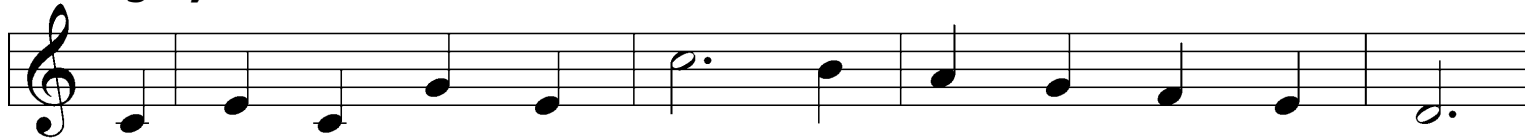
*The LORD is our God,
the LORD is one!*

We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength. Amen.

Closing Hymn

On What Has Now Been Sown

LSB 921



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Announcements