



# **Faith Lutheran Church**

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ***

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 12, 2017**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**CONFESSION AND  
FORGIVENESS**

**P:** The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(A brief silence.) Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

~ **OPENING HYMN** ~  
*“Gather Us In”*

**Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.**

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away-  
but here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**P:** In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments.

Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**ALL:** O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# *Children's Church*

## **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

A reading from Deuteronomy, the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Moses said to the people: See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances,

then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him;

for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# **PSALM: 119:1-8 – A Responsive Reading**

**R:** Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!

**C:** **Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,**

R: Who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

**C: You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.**

R: Oh, that my ways were made so direct  
that I might keep your statutes!

**C: Then I should not be put to shame,  
when I regard all your  
commandments.**

R: I will thank you with a true heart,  
when I have learned your  
righteous judgments.

**C: I will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh.

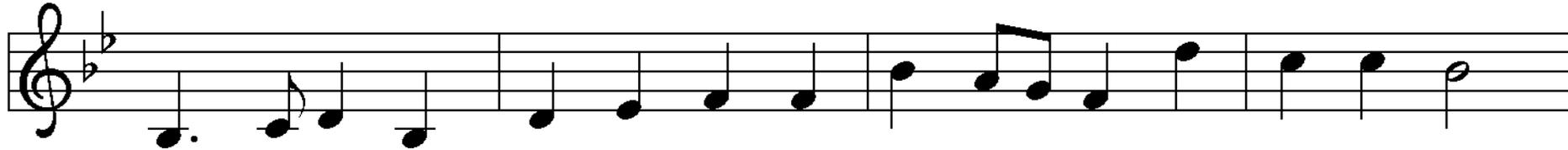
For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# **“ALLELUIA”**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-37**

**P:** The holy gospel according to Matthew,  
the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: **Glory to you, O Lord.****

Jesus said to the disciples: “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’

But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

~ **SERMON** ~

*“Choose Life”*

# **HYMN OF THE DAY**

***“Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways”***

**Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways  
to keep his statutes still!**

**Oh, that my God would grant me grace  
to know and do his will!**

**Order my footsteps by your word  
and make my heart sincere;  
let sin have no dominion, Lord,  
but keep my conscience clear.**

**Assist my soul, too apt to stray,  
a stricter watch to keep;  
and should I e'er forget your way,  
restore your wand'ring sheep.**

**Make me to walk in your commands,  
'tis a delightful road;  
nor let my head or heart or hands  
offend against my God.**

**INSTALLATION OF 2017**  
**Church Council Members**

**Amanda Guffey**  
**President/Christian Education & Youth**

**Todd Strasser**  
**Vice President/Property**

**Craig Miller, Property**

**Doug Congdon, Treasurer/Stewardship/Finance**

**Kelly Miller, Secretary**

**Cathy Murphy, Memorial**

**Dennis Kelce, ParishLife/Hospitality/Evangelism**

**Sue Brunson, Parish Life/Hospitality/Evangelism**

**Karen Murr, Social Ministry**

**Patti Dunaway, Social Ministry**

**Taylor Gruenberg, Youth Liaison**

**Pastor Rick Meier, Pastor/Worship & Music**

# **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P:** Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing. (A brief silence.) Holy Lord, you alone are God. Remove jealousy and quarreling between Christian denominations. Hold us in the unity of our baptism as we work together to serve you.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** You called into being the first fruits of the earth. Guide gardeners and farmers who till the soil and tend the fields. Bless their work and in due season bring forth the bounty of the land. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Merciful Lord, your love knows no bounds. Break down barriers caused by nationalism. Challenge our stereotypes. Give us courage to engage in difficult conversations with those whose experiences are different from our own. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on all who struggle (*especially*). Ease the pain of families affected by divorce. Grant life-giving work to all who seek employment. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** You know every hair on our heads. Yet we do not even know each of our neighbors. Equip our outreach ministry and this assembly to get to know the people in our community.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Eternal Lord, you are the God of our ancestors in faith. You are our God. Keep us faithful until we join all the saints at your heavenly banquet.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# **SHARING THE PEACE**

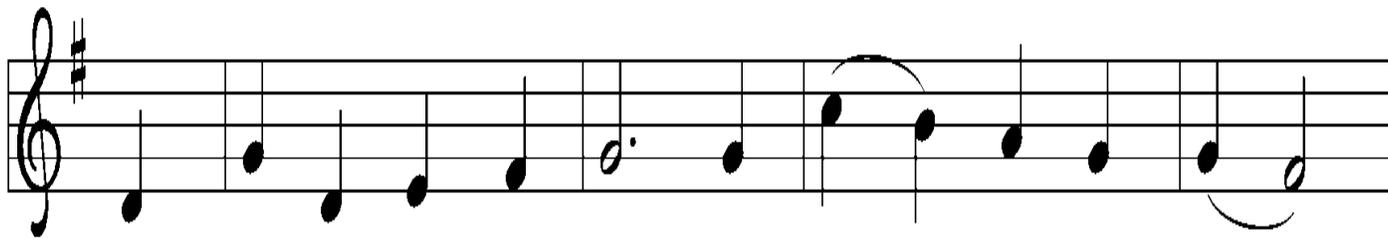
**P:** The Peace of Christ be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~**

***“I Bless Your Name”  
by Selah***

# OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P:** Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C: Amen.**

# DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the  
Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

# **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE 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.**



**COMMUNION**

# **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now – today, tomorrow, every day – that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.

**C:** **Amen**

# **BLESSING**

**P:** The God of all, grace ✠ bless you,  
now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

# **CLOSING HYMN**

***“Choral Benediction”***

**May the light of God shine on us today.  
May the light of God shine on us today.  
May it show us where to travel,  
lead us back if we should stray.  
May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the warmth we feel within us,  
show in all we do and say.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the peace of God be with us today.  
May the peace of God be with us today.  
May it guide us and protect us,  
as we go our separate ways.  
May the peace of God be with us today.**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

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





