



# **Faith Lutheran Church**

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

**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
February 19, 2017**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BOY SCOUT PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**



Noisy Can Collection  
during today's offering will be  
donated to our Scout troops



# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy  
endures forever.

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

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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

(A brief silence.) Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things we have  
done and things we have failed to do.  
Turn us again to you, and uphold us by  
your Spirit, so that we may live and serve  
you in newness of life through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

**~ OPENING HYMN ~**

***“Praise, My Soul, The God of Heaven”***

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;  
joyfully your tribute bring.**

**Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore God's praises sing.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praises everlasting ring!**

**God be praised for grace and favor  
to our forebears in distress.**

**God be praised, the same forever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Glorious is God's faithfulness!**

**Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish,  
blows the wind and it is gone;  
but, as mortals rise and perish,  
God endures unchanging on.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the great Eternal One!**

**Angels sing in adoration,  
in God's presence, face to face.  
Sun and moon and all creation,  
all who dwell in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace!**

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 first reading we hear, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us.

Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism, and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray. (A brief silence.)

**C:** **Holy God of compassion, you invite us into your way of forgiveness and peace. Lead us to love our enemies, and transform our words and deeds to be like his through whom we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

# *Children's Church*

## **FIRST READING: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18**

A reading from Leviticus, the 19<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest.

You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God. You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning.

You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

**R:** Word of God, word of life.

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

## **PSALM: 119:33-40 ~ A Responsive Reading**

**R:** Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

**C:** **Give me understanding, and I shall keep  
your teaching; I shall keep it with all my  
heart.**

R: Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

**C: Incline my heart to your decrees and not  
to unjust gain.**

R: Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
give me life in your way.

**C: Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which is for those who fear you.**

R: Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

**C: Behold, I long for your commandments;  
by your righteousness enliven me.**

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

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

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

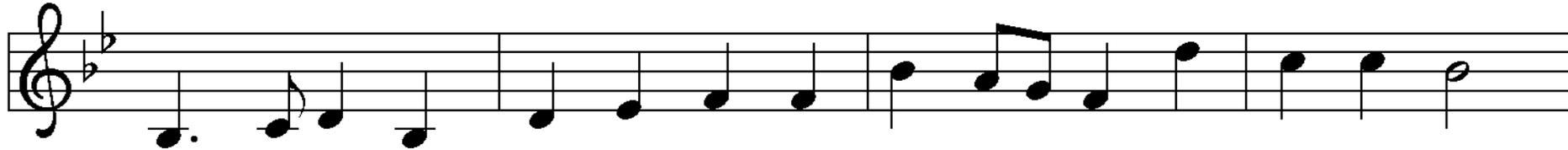
Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” So, let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future - all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

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 5:38-48**

**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, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’

But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer.  
But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek,  
turn the other also; and if anyone wants to  
sue you and take your coat, give your cloak  
as well; and if anyone forces you to go one  
mile, go also the second mile.

Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven;

for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

~ **SERMON** ~

**“Mature Christianity”**

# **HYMN OF THE DAY**

***“O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”***

**O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,  
The fount of life, the light of all:  
From ev'ry bliss that earth imparts  
We turn, unfilled, to hear your call.**

**We taste you, ever-living bread,  
And long to feast upon you still;  
We drink of you, the fountainhead;  
Our thirsting souls from you we fill.**

**For you our restless spirits yearn,  
Where'er our changing lot is cast;  
Glad, when your smile on us you turn,  
Blest, when by faith we hold you fast.**

**O Jesus, ever with us stay!  
Make all our moments fair and bright!  
Oh, chase the night of sin away!  
Shed o'er the world your holy light.**

# **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.) Make the church in every land holy as you are holy, O God. Join the voices of rich and poor, young and old, friends and enemies, in praise of you.  
Orchestrate harmony among us.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for clean air, clean water, and clean soil. Renew the sky, land, and waterways. Teach us how to care for the earth as you desire.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for an end to war and for peace throughout the world.  
Prosper the work of peacemakers,  
erase hatred, and stop violence.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for all who live with cognitive disorders or eating disorders. Provide them with supportive communities. Restore the forgotten; comfort the mourning; heal the hurting (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for all who are discerning a call to ministry and those who accompany them. Empower them with your grace and wisdom to continue building on the foundation of faith we have in Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We give thanks for the faithful departed (*especially*) and we pray for those who will die today. Hold them in your loving embrace. Breathe your Spirit of peace into them. 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.**



Noisy Can Collection  
offering will be donated to  
our Scout troops

**~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~**

***“Grace Wins”***

***By Matthew West***



## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray. 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**

***“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”***

**Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The unity of heart and mind  
Is like to that above.**

**Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.**

**We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.**

**From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
And sin we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign  
Through all eternity.**

# **CLOSING FLAG CEREMONY**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Share the good news.

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