



Faith Lutheran Church

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

**Sunday, February 16, 2020
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
9:30 am**

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the page, framing the central white area. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity,
+ one God, the eternal voice
from heaven, the anointed and
beloved one, the Spirit moving
over the waters.

C: Amen.

P: As we approach the mystery of God,
let us come in confession, trusting
the love of Christ crucified and risen.
(A brief silence.) God who searches us
and knows us,

C: **you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find
our way. We have not been just in our
dealings with others.**

**We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves instead of
walking humbly with you. With what shall
we come before you? Forgive us our sin,
and show us your salvation in the face of
Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child: + your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG “*O God of Every Nation*”

**O God of ev'ry nation,
of ev'ry race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.**

**From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver ev'ry nation,
eternal God, we pray.**

**Lord, strengthen all who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.**

**Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and love shall reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.**

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

C: Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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. *(A brief silence.)* O God,

C: **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 30th 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.

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 119

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 1st Corinthians, the 3rd 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.

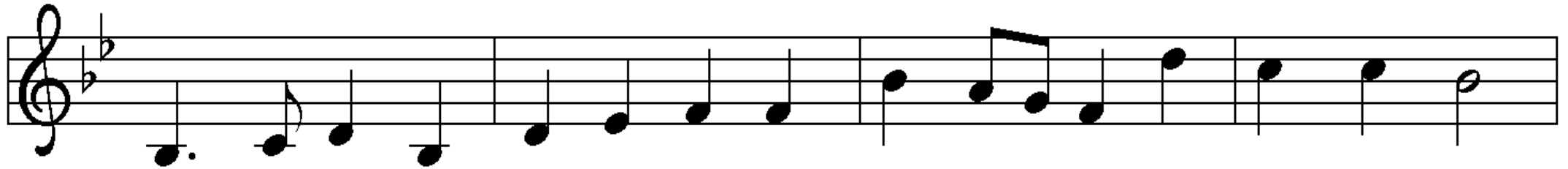
R: Word of God, word of life.

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 5th 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. But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The central area is white, providing a clean space for the text.

SERMON
“Choose Life, Find Blessing”

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

**O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.**

**Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.**

**Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.**

THE 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: Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *(A brief silence.)* Shepherding God, you protect and guide us with your word. Lead your church into ever closer relationship with you, that we might better know your commands, hold fast to your decrees, and live in your law. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: God of the cosmos, heaven and earth bear witness to the splendor of all you have created. Bless the ground, trees, waterways, and skies with abundant life. Restore synergy between humankind and the natural world, that we may live in harmony with the world you have made. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: God of peace, you show solidarity with all who suffer. Bring an end to violence, war, discrimination, and all other forms of deadly hate, that we may experience your love through the power of justice. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: God of hope, you provide bountifully for all people. Use our lives to alleviate global injustice and eliminate poverty, that all benefit from the abundant gifts you pour out for your people.
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: God of growth, you nurture this community. Cultivate in us a spirit of service to one another, and bless us in the ministry we share.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah and Rachel, we give you thanks for our forebears in the faith who now rest in your eternal grace and love (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

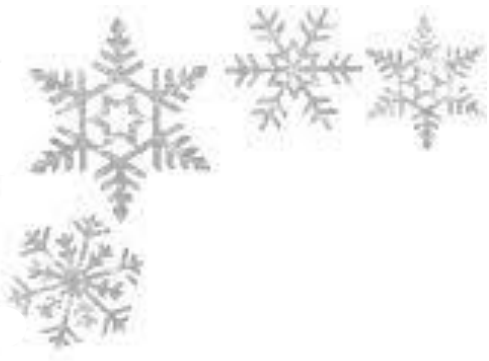
P: Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**



VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY

“If We’re Honest”

by Francesca Battistelli

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: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our savior and Light.

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: Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *“Shine, Jesus, Shine”*

**Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light.***

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light.***

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light.***

DISMISSAL

P: Go forth into the world to love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



