

# SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 8:30 AM

## WELCOME



Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him and offers power to heal us all.

- ✠ Preacher – The Rev. Wes Smith
- ✠ Officiant – Pr. Brian Griswold
- ✠ Worship Leader – Earl Hem

## WORSHIP

### **HYMN: In the Secret**

In the secret, in the quiet place,  
in my deepest heart I know  
In the stillness, in the quiet hour I wait only for You  
'Cause I want to know You more **Chorus**

I am reaching for the highest goal, that I might receive the prize  
Pressing onward, pushing every hindrance aside, out of my way  
'Cause I want to know You more **Chorus**

### **Chorus:**

I want to know You,  
I want to hear Your voice  
I want to know You more  
I want to touch You,  
I want to see Your face  
I want to know You more

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### **HYMN: Jesus, Strong and Kind**

Jesus said That if I thirst, I should come to Him.  
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him.  
Jesus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.  
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him.  
**Chorus**

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him  
No one else can be my shield, I should come to Him.  
**Chorus**

Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me.  
And He showed me on that cross, He will come to me.  
**Chorus**

### **Chorus**

For the Lord is good and faithful  
He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus  
Jesus, strong and kind.

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**Prayer of the Day - Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **GOD'S HOLY WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17: 5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.



<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

## **Psalm 1**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!



<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke 6:17 - 26; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>17</sup>[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup>"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup>"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup>"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## **SERMON – Blessed or Woeful?**

**Rev. Wes Smith**

## OFFERING

### OFFERING HYMN: Onward Christian Soldiers

1. Onward, Christian Soldiers, marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus, Going on before.  
Christ the Royal Master, Leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle, See His banners go! **(Refrain)**
2. Like a mighty army Moves the church of God;  
Let us boldly follow Where the saints have trod  
We are not divided, all one body we;  
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.  
**(Refrain)**
3. Crowns and thorns may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and wane,  
But the church of Jesus, Constant will remain;  
Gates of hell can never, 'Gainst the Church prevail.  
We have Christs own promise. And that cannot fail!  
**(Refrain)**
4. Onward, then, you faithful, Join our happy throng;  
Blend with ours your voices, In the triumph Song.  
Glory, laud, and honor, Unto Christ the King.  
We through countless ages, With the angles sing.  
**(Refrain)**

#### **Refrain:**

Onward, Christian Soldiers, marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus, Going on before

### OFFERING PRAYER

O God, our life, our strength, receive these gifts as a token of our thanksgiving for the blessings you provide for us daily. By your Holy Spirit, help us to be your body in the world, that more and more will give you praise and serve your people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† We recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Grace those from our families and community in greatest need of our prayers and your blessings.

*(Please name silently or out loud).* Provide an extra measure of your grace and love.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

### **THE LORDS PRAYER**

#### **CLOSING HYMN: You Direct My Steps**

I will make my plans, Lord,  
(But) You direct my steps (**x3**)

I will trust You all the time  
In any situation

I will give all my worries to You

I know it will be just fine

No matter what You do

I will be thankful, so very grateful

I will be happy I'm with You

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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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**Dismissal:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Notes:**

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