

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16th, 2025 – 10 AM

WELCOME

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed ones” 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. Rudy Schneider

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. Many times we ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: ELW#434 - Jesus Shall Reign

Prayer of the Day - Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GOD’S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17: 5-10

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ 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.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰ 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

¹ 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!

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

³ 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.

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

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

⁶ **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!**

¹⁷ [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. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ 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.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ "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. ²⁶ "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 – Rev. Wes Smith

HYMN: ELW#754 – Jesus, the Very Thought of You

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

OFFERING & 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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

And on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.



Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest and pray unto you the prayer he taught us to pray -

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.

Invitation to Communion – The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN 1: Change My Heart O God

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

COMMUNION HYMN 2: O Lord, You're Beautiful

O Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek;
And when Your eyes are on this child, your grace abounds to me.
O Lord, You're wonderful, Your touch is all I need;
And when Your hand is on this child, Your healing I receive.
O Lord, please light the fire, That once burned bright and clear,
Replace the lamp of my first love that burns with holy fear.
O Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek;
And when Your eyes are on this child, Your grace abounds to me.

By Keith Green; c.1980 Ears to Hear Music, Adm. Capitol CMG Publishing; CCLI# 14514

Closing Prayer - Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

Blessing - The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Barnegat Light NJ

CLOSING HYMN: ELW#886 - O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

Song of Blessing

May God's blessing surround you each day,
As you trust God and walk in God's way.
May God's presence within guard and keep you from sin,
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

C. 1982 by Cliff Barrows. C. 1986 by Pierre Lacher, CCLI License # 22085334

Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

Notes:
