

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

The Goodness of God's Grace

February 11 & 12, 2017

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

The appointed Psalm for this day in the life of the Church is the first eight verses of the longest chapter in the Bible—Psalm 119. Set in the original Hebrew as an acrostic poem, the first word of the first section begins with the first letter of the alphabet (Aleph) and each of the following sections uses the next letter in order (Beth, Gimel, etc.). The careful structure of this Psalm and all of our worship underscores the importance of what we are about as we gather in Christ's name. God is here among us, sharing His goodness and mercy. So we confess with the psalmist, "blessed are those . . . who seek Him with their whole heart" (Psalm 119:2).

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT by The Gideon's International

"Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: Jesus appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory." (1 Timothy 3:16)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #807 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

When evening shadows fall, This rings my curfew call;
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs;
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

God's holy house of prayer Hath none that can compare
With "Jesus Christ be praised!"

No lovelier antiphon In all high heav'n is known Than "Jesus Christ be praised!"

There to the eternal Word The eternal psalm is heard:

"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Ye nations of mankind, In this your concord find; "May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Let all the earth around Ring joyous with the sound: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,

Sing, "Jesus, Christ be praised!"

God's whole creation o'er, Both now and evermore Shall Jesus Christ be praised!"

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: "When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy." Let us go to Him, confident that He will grant us forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to exhibit goodness, the fruit of your Holy Spirit, in our thinking, speaking, and acting. We have not always chosen life, loving the Lord our God, obeyed His voice, and held fast to Him. We have not always sought to be reconciled to our brothers. Our Lord Jesus revealed His person and ministry through His words and actions. In your great mercy, forgive, renew, and lead us so that we may be revealed as His faith-filled followers to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you

all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Page 155

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **Refrain**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

(Be seated)

THEME CELEBRATION

“Goodness”

Pastor: In both the Old and New Testaments, the goodness of God is linked to the life of the believer. The psalmist writes, “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!” Hebrews affirms that those who believe in Christ “have tasted the goodness of the word of God.” Although the words *God* and *good* are not linguistically related, God is all about goodness and mercy. Goodness is part of the Christian character and an important fruit of the Spirit. As Paul wrote asking a favor from his friend Philemon, he states, “but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will.”

HYMN #691

“Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing, May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self control.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending, May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven’s love and joy and peace.

(Rise)

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Father in heaven, throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus revealed His identity and mission through words and deeds.

People: Grant that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us, so that we may be revealed as His faith-filled followers as we reflect the goodness you have shown us in your grace;

Pastor: through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ **WORD** ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 30:15–20* (Choose life!) See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 3:1–9* (Only God gives growth.) Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly-- mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only

servants, through whom you came to believe-- as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 5:21–37* (Jesus teaches about the Law with authority.)

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca, 'is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny."You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body 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 part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery. "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; 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 even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. (Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #704 "Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from your holy face.

5 continued

Remove the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey your Word.
Let what you will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only you may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face, O Light eternal, through your grace.

SERMON "The Heart of the Matter and the Heart of Christ" Matthew 5:21-37

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . one God, now and forever.

People: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI #434 **“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”**

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.

All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.

All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.

All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #609 **“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”**

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression.
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion:
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven:
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

HYMN #637 **“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”**

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you out-poured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.

He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

HYMN #702 **“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away:
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside!

When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that you have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that, strengthened thereby, we will exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in all that we do in our daily living; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, who gave His Son for the life of the world; the Son, who has revealed to us God's grace, mercy, and love; and the Spirit, by whose fruit we are seen to be children of God—bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #863 "Our Father, by Whose Name"

Our Father, by whose name All fatherhood is known,
Who dost in love proclaim Each family Thine own,
Bless Thou all parents, guarding well,
With constant love as sentinel, The homes in which Thy people dwell.

O Christ, Thyself a child Within an earthly home,
With heart still undefiled, Thou didst to manhood come;
Our children bless in ev'ry place That they may all behold Thy face,
And knowing Thee may grow in grace.

O Spirit, who dost bind Our hearts in unity,
Who teachest us to find The love from self set free,
In all our hearts such love increase That ev'ry home by this release
May be the dwelling place of peace.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Children's Message
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Jodi Drew, Dan Vaclav
Jaedon Brandt, Ryann Gutknecht
Laurel Privatt
Michelle Prince

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The ushers will accept a free will offering for the Gideons
as you leave today.