



EPIPHANY

moments

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 16, 2025 ✕ 8:00 AND 10:15 AM

50 PRINCE OF PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as your comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.
- * If you could use some hearing assistance, please ask the usher in the entryway, we have headsets available.



Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

Epiphany Moments - Blessings are Cursed; Curses are Blessed

When someone is new to something, there is a period of orientation. For example, when someone takes up a new game or sport, they need to first learn the rules. Likewise, when someone is a new disciple of Jesus, a period of orientation follows. It's necessary, because by nature we assume that Jesus' kingdom works the same way the world works.

The truth that is uncovered this week is that the principles on which Jesus' kingdom runs are the opposite of the principles of the world. Things like success and wealth and health can lead us away from our God. We become so enamored with those blessings that we forget about the Blesser. Conversely, there are hidden blessings in what we would normally consider curses. When we fail, when we suffer, and when things don't go our way, it forces us to put our trust in God and for our souls to be satisfied in him. The reality is that perceived blessings can be cursed and perceived curses can be used for our blessing

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD type**.* 

Hymn 626 My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness

Please stand.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Song of Praise



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our
loves so well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his
sin a - way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed - for your
grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your glo - ry,
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and ho - ly,
might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our joy - ful
Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the glo - ry
ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of power and might, you know that we live in the midst of many great dangers, and in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Give us strength and protection to support us in all peril, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

A blessed life is not connected to outward circumstances like physical health or wealth. Rather, the one who is blessed is the one who has been given the gift of faith, whose trust is in the Lord.

⁵This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶That person will be like a bush in the

wastelands;

they will not see prosperity when it comes.
They will dwell in the parched places of the
desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷“But blessed is the one who trusts in the
LORD, whose confidence is in him.

⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves
are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1 *The church sings Psalm 1 in services that highlight the blessings of meditating on the Word of God, which causes us to flourish and bear good fruit.*

Refrain

Bless - ed are they, bless - ed are
they who hope in the LORD.

spoken responsively:

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

Refrain

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

Refrain

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

Paul had a struggle that he initially viewed as a weakness. He came to see it as a blessing as it forced him to rely on God's strength.

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly

about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 121:8

Alleluia. The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.
Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel

Luke 6:17-27

In one of his most famous sermons Jesus teaches that the good things we seek are found in places we would least expect.

¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you

and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy,
because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day | 803 Day by Day

Sermon 2 Corinthians 12 His promise is everything

Please stand

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

We pray for...

Harry (Nancy Brandt's brother-in-law with serious health struggles), Frankie (Robyn's young friend with cancer), Tim (Paul and Emma Porter's brother-in-law with cancer), Chaunc (Krystal's son), Nathan (Zahn's nephew on military deployment), JoElla (recovering from radiation treatment), Craig (chronic back issues), Janice and Julia (cancer diagnosis), Paul (Pam Farrel's nephew with serious health issues), Angie (Mert and Francine's daughter with health issues), Mona (health issues) and Crissy (cancer), Ali Wiedemann as she considers a Divine Call to PoP

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to (833) 693-7056. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth.
We praise and thank you for sending your
Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the
great acts of love through which he has
ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's
power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened
heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by
your Word, we approach your table with
repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us

through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting. Amen.

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.

The Words of Our Lord Jesus

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will

took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Be seated

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS *Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.*

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and

how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!**

Hymn | 800 How Firm a Foundation

Hymn | 867 Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
Your + sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Stand

Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn | 617 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow



Thank you to Tori Diersen for using her gifts to serve us and our Savior with music this morning!




THANK YOU!

More Info www.popslc.org/hope

This note is to say thank you.

20 months ago, we pulled together to commit over \$905,000 toward a building project in 24 months. Along the way many gifts have come in from others who weren't part of the campaign pledges, too.

Thank you for gifts of love received in excess of \$760,000 as of this week!

Thank you for your love for the Lord in action, for your love for your brothers and sisters, and for your love for the children who are hearing and will, God-willing, be hearing about the love of Christ in this place for a long time. Thank you for sacrifices in love for God and neighbor. It honors our Savior's name.

Please pray for a strong finish to our Hope for the Future campaign. In planning and borrowing, your Leadership team has been banking on all of us meeting our commitments.

With our loan now approved and a construction contract to be signed in mid-March, groundbreaking will be coming soon!

To God be the glory!




STRIVING FORWARD TOGETHER

I hope to endear you to your hymnal and help you see it for the treasure it that it is, this eloquent capturing of centuries of Christian expression, born out of centuries of struggle. Our hymnal is a chronicle of the grace found by those who have gone before us - how they learned to pray, sing, and structure their gathering times. It is the profoundly affecting story of those who searched for the face of Christ under the dear cross and the way he was found by them.

There is newness in our hymnal as well, with fresh forms and contemporary melodies that give voice to the marvelous freedom we have to add our part to the ancient worship song, to the best artistic creations of every age since. And there is freedom as well to adapt with thoughtfulness and understanding what you find in your hymnal for your own particular circumstances.

We may as well think of Christian worship as a true culture, for the sun literally never sets on the worshiping church. We are part of something far larger than ourselves, a worldwide phenomenon sustained by the spirit of Christ himself. His presence is undiluted though it spreads to the very corners of the earth. His grace is undiminished by time. You may find that there is nothing so lovely as the eternal gospel when it wears other faces, is spoken in other accents, is sung to other tunes - that is, when the message of

Jesus comes wrapped in skin tones and cultural trappings that are other than your own. You gain a fresh hearing in just this way. "Wherever two or three gather in my name," he said, "there am I." All across this seriously broken world, streaked in pain, there is a stubborn joy in the Christian heart that delights in every kindred soul and finds true community as every human difference recedes. "There am I," he says, when we who were estranged by sin and pride come to love one another, the fruit of how God has really loved us and the markings of the sacramental life.

Jesus intervenes all over again in the affairs of poor sinners, showing up at the proclaiming of this name, this news, in catacombs and under open sky, in stone cathedrals and school gyms with rows of folding chairs. The very thought of this happening around the globe keeps us open to the many ways the true worship of Jesus, in the spirit, can sound - hands clapping or babies shouting, a classical guitar to soften our thoughts or the lowest registers of a pipe organ to rattle in our chest.

continued next week....

Mark Paustian, *Our Worth To Him - Devotions for Christian Worship*