



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for February 13, 2022, celebrating the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany.

Pastor Jack Dressler (519-250-7210) is our interim Pastor. Please contact him for any pastoral needs.

WE WELCOME YOU BACK FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES STARTING SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20.

Upcoming services:

March 2 - Ash Wednesday Service 10 a.m.

** No Wednesday Lenten Service **

Pastor Jack will be leading the following services:

February 27

March 2 Ash Wednesday

March 13 and March 27

Palm Sunday April 10

Good Friday April 15

Easter April 17

Honoring the wishes of Pastor Mike and adhering to COVID restrictions, there will be no farewell service or farewell send-off. If you wish to call him, send him a letter or arrange a pre-approved visit, please do so.

Thank you again for your support for Trinity. Please continue to mail in cheques, or drop them off in the church's mailbox or make your donation either through PAR or through the Donate button on the church's website, at "www.trinitylutheran.ca".

Introduction

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.

Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you!**

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.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Rejoice, and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

⁵Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They 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.

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

⁸They 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.

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

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Psalm: Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water.

¹Happy 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.**

³They 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.**

⁵Therefore 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.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

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

²⁰Then 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. ²³Rejoice 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, O Christ.**

The Sermon: Blessed Are The Hungry (written by Pastor Ted Giese, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Regina, Saskatchewan – February 2019)

Grace peace and mercy to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Good Christian Friends. A beatitude is a declaration of blessedness. The state of blessedness [you] enjoy results from the fact that God is in communion with [you, with us as Christians] through His son Jesus Christ.” “The most important feature of the beatitudes is that they are Christological [That is they are focused on who Jesus is, who He is for you, who He is for me, for us, for all people]. [This is why we can say] all God’s blessings are found in Christ, and Christ is the source of every blessing.” When you are declared to be blessed you are therefore blessed not by your own actions or merit rather you are declared blessed in Jesus.

Keeping this in mind let's think of the picture of a table where people gather together to eat. Jesus says, "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied." And then later in the same teaching Jesus says, "Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry." This isn't some kind of communist threat to the rich; it's a warning to those who desire to go it alone apart from Jesus; who have no desire or appreciation for the blessings of God bestowed on them in Christ Jesus; it's a warning to those who live for today with false security for tomorrow, the kind of people who mistake a full belly and material blessings today with spiritual fullness and eternal blessings in Christ Jesus.

Jesus highlights this attitude in a parable - a teaching - a little later in the Gospel of Luke, saying "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And [the rich man] said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to [the rich man], 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So [Jesus concludes] is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." "Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry."

Is there no hope for the person who has turned their back on the riches of God in Christ Jesus for the transitory, momentary, fleeting riches of this world? Yes, there is hope. Also in the Gospel of St. Luke we hear how Jesus one day "entered Jericho and [as He] was passing through [with His disciples] behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And [this Zacchaeus] was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see [Jesus], for [Jesus] was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So [Zacchaeus] hurried and came down and received [Jesus] joyfully. And when [the people from Jericho who paid their taxes to Zacchaeus and counted Zacchaeus as a lowly wretched traitor and Roman collaborator] saw [Jesus go with Zacchaeus to Zacchaeus' house], they all grumbled, "[This Jesus] has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus [while they ate together] stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to [Zacchaeus], "Today salvation has come to this house, since

[this Zacchaeus] also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." When Zacchaeus was declared to be blessed by Jesus he was blessed not because of his own actions or merit rather Zacchaeus was declared blessed in Jesus by Jesus and on account of Jesus. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied." The opinions of others are invalid to Jesus when He has forgiven you and declared you to be blessed in Him.

Unlike the rich man with his barns in the parable that Jesus told, rich Zacchaeus still took the time to see Jesus, to seek after God. Zacchaeus didn't respond to news of Jesus' arrival in Jericho by saying, "What you say? That Jesus fellow everyone is talking about is coming through town? I can't be bothered, time is money and I have no time for the likes of him. I couldn't be bothered to break bread with a traveling beggar and his circus side show of 'miracles.' Just bring me something to eat; I'll work through lunch alone, thank you very much!" No Zacchaeus sought Jesus and in Jesus the fleeting consolation of earthly wealth was exchanged for a great and eternal reward in heaven. Zacchaeus who was hungry for Jesus was satisfied. But Zacchaeus didn't expect that Jesus would receive him, Zacchaeus knew his sins of coveting, and theft, and disregard for neighbour and didn't believe he was worthy of Jesus' attention: In the face of Jesus Zacchaeus had actually displayed great humility. Climbing up a tree like a little child required Zacchaeus to set aside his dignity; you wouldn't expect an old fashioned Wall Street stock broker in a pinstripe three piece suite and wingtip shoes to shimmy up a tree just to get a better look at something. How does Jesus put it? "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like [a] child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Again in the Gospel of St. Luke Jesus tells yet another parable, "when He noticed how [the guests at a Sabbath party that He was attending, that was thrown by a rich and devout man,] chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by [the host of the wedding feast], and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied." and, "Woe to you who are full

now, for you shall be hungry.” As Zacchaeus suffered the worldly indignity of having to climb up and sit in the sycamore tree just to see Jesus, few if any would have imagined that Jesus would single him out to eat with at table that day. When Jesus said to Zacchaeus, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today,” Jesus blessed Zacchaeus in the eyes of all who hated Zacchaeus basically saying to him ‘Friend, move up higher,’ and strangely there was no rejoicing among the people of Jericho, instead they grumbled and why? Because they didn’t believe that Zacchaeus had earned or deserved a place at the table with this Jesus. And just to show how sour with sin their hearts had become they also then grumbled against Jesus for eating with Zacchaeus. The whole thing in their eyes then reflected poorly on Jesus too.

The World is like this and this again is what Jesus is getting at with the Beatitudes in the Gospel of Luke. You repent of your sin and receive the forgiveness Jesus won for you at the cross of Good Friday, He says to you ‘Friend, move up higher,’ come eat at My table with Me, be satisfied You are now blessed and the World grumbles and says that man, that woman, that child or teenager, or young adult whoever you are is a sinner, the World wants to never forget your sin because the World doesn’t believe in Jesus and it doesn’t count His forgiveness as real. The World says, “I don’t care what Jesus says you’re no good; he says you’re forgiven, so what, it doesn’t change what you did.” The World resents forgiveness and will tread on you, and try to keep you down, especially if you are one who believes in Jesus and trusts in Jesus’ forgiveness and the blessings you receive from God in Christ Jesus.

As Jesus says, “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.”

But be careful. Demanding a place at The Table, when you have no repentance in your heart and wanting your sin, whatever it is, to be accommodated, accepted and praised is a dangerous thing. The Lord of The Table may ask, ‘how did you get in here without a robe of Christ’s righteousness?’ Such a one might get away with it today but on The Last Day when the doors swing open to the feast to come, the great and long expected heavenly banquet, on That Day such a usurper, pretender and unrepentant sinner will be bound hand and foot and cast into the outer darkness. Into that place where there

will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' Even today the stewards of the table have the task and responsibility of properly administering the Sacraments in Jesus' church.

With that in mind, indeed mindful of all of it, today dear Christian you, as one truly forgiven, may be genuinely put upon, and put down by the World in this life, you may in fact be ostracized and shunned by the World for your faith in Jesus, do not despair their attacks, take heart if this is you Jesus invites you to His table, He says to you 'Friend, move up higher.' In His Cross and Passion Jesus took the lowest seat in His crucifixion. If all the living from Adam and Eve to the last boy or girl born on The Last Day each had a seat at an earthly table Jesus the very Son of God and the most honoured guest took the very lowest seat at that table so you could have the a heavenly seat of honour in Him, so you would be blessed in Him, so you would be satisfied in Him, so that your tears will be wiped away on The Last Day and you will have laughter in Him, so you will receive the kingdom of God in Him, in Christ Jesus. Today you have a foretaste of that feast to come, a foretaste of the heavenly table. That table is for the repentant soul, for the one who makes a public confession of faith in Christ even if such a confession puts them, puts you, at odds with the World.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied."

But I am not always hungry, I often have no appetite for God's Word, For Jesus, I sometimes don't even feel like coming to the table when I am called, when He calls me. I'm more like the rich man with his barns than I am like Zacchaeus. I couldn't be bothered to "shimmy up a tree" to see Jesus, or even to see Jesus in Holy Communion being distributed. I can't always muster up sufficient feelings of sorrow in my heart over my sin! My heart is just not in it some days. I'm not necessarily defiant in my sin; I just don't feel like my repentance is complete. Dear Christian, what did Jesus say to St. Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." St. John likewise says to you, "for whenever our heart condemns us, [remember] God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything."

Listen again: A beatitude is not a laundry list of attitude adjustments that you must perfectly master in order to receive God's favour, a beatitude is a declaration of blessedness from the very mouth of Jesus to your ears, to your heart. It is the state of blessedness [you] enjoy results from the fact that God is in communion with [you] through His

son Jesus Christ.” Again, “The most important feature of the beatitudes is that they are Christological [That is they are focused on who Jesus is, who He is for you, who He is for me, for us, for all people]. [This is why we can say] all God’s blessings are found in Christ, and Christ is the source of every blessing.”

Your Host at The Table of Salvation, Jesus Christ who in His resurrection from the dead and His Ascension to the right Hand of God His Heavenly Father, this Jesus who the World hates but we His people love, This Jesus who fills all things say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Come sit at My table for I have come to eat with you – I am both Host and Meal, Be no longer hungry, be satisfied, for yours is the kingdom of God now belongs to you in Me. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The Prayers of Intercession

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Blessed are those whose trust is in you. Strengthen the faith of those who profess your name and bring reassurance to those who doubt or fear. Through your church speak continued blessing into the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Those who trust in you are like trees planted by streams of water. Bless fruit trees with an abundant harvest. Protect rainforests from destruction. Restore land that has eroded after deforestation. Resurrect woodlands after forest fires. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Search the hearts of those who govern, that they lead with humility. Inspire leaders to collaborate on policies that protect people and the planet. Sustain truth-tellers and social movements that challenge society to become more honest and just. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Send your blessings of mercy upon those who long for consolation. Tend to those struggling with poverty, unemployment, or uncertainty. Provide for all who are hungry. Console those who face persecution. Grant peace to all who suffer. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renew this congregation in our shared mission. As we plan and dream for the future you are preparing, inspire us by the examples of Martin Luther and all the reformers. Bless new projects and new ministry partnerships. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of presence, bless those of this community who cannot be with us this morning, and those who walk with them, especially:

In Residence: Margaret; Maria; Stan; Katie; Katherine; Cordelle

Needing our prayers: Peter; Brenda; Doug; Dorothy; Bill; Bev; Ed; Marilyn; Jordan; Audrey; John; John; Greg; Sam; Katie; Walter; Hart; Frank; Pastor Mike & Patti, Donna, Paul, Hilda; Sharon B

Recovering: Katherine; Carol; Betty; Greg; Kati; Bill; Mary

And all those we name in our hearts...

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

Christ is raised from the dead, and so we cling to the hope of the resurrection. We praise you for the lives of the saints who lived and died in the hope of eternal life with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach 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.

Benediction

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**