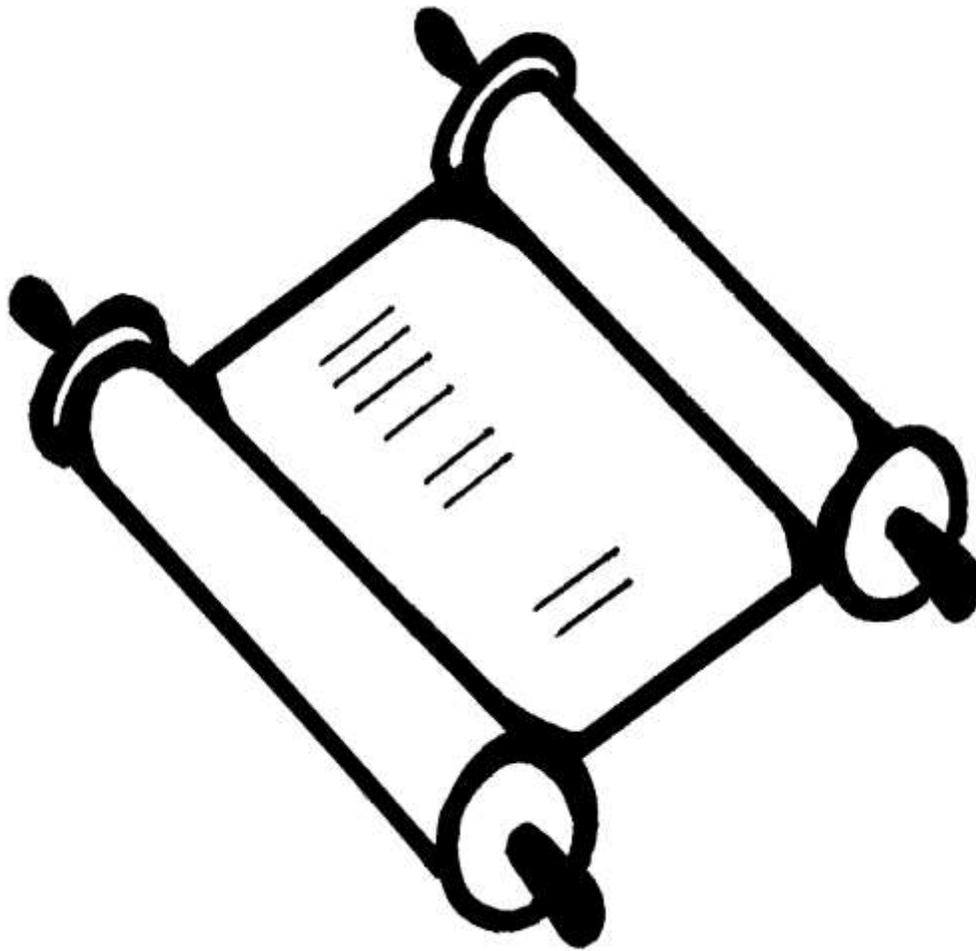




Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, February 11, 2017

6th Sunday after the Epiphany



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!

Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement: *“Gospel In Action: Caring for all God’s children, we shall serve God through worship, learning, and sharing.”*

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship - Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) is a congregation of the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a part of the worldwide Lutheran community. Our order for worship is printed on the following pages of this bulletin. We invite you to join us regularly for worship and in a variety of activities and opportunities in our congregational life. If you are new here, we welcome you; if you are a member of long standing, we celebrate your gifts and ministry.

New to CELC - We are happy to have you with us and we wish you a warm welcome. If you would like more information about our church and its ministries, please look for a member of the Welcoming Team by the TV after the service for information and a gift. Please take a few minutes to view the announcements displayed on the TV in the gathering area.

For those with children - We encourage you to have your children participate in worship. They learn about worship and faith by being involved. Coloring and activity bags are available just outside the sanctuary doors.

Holy Communion - The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each week at CELC. All are welcome to receive this gift of God's grace, love, and forgiveness. All who hunger to know the love of God are welcome to commune with us. The table of our Lord is now set for all those who need grace, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom for ministry and mission to the world. If you are unable to come forward, Holy Communion can be brought to your seat. If you wish to come forward to receive a blessing, you are encouraged to do so. Gluten-free crackers and grape juice are available for those with dietary needs. If you have questions about the sacrament, or if you wish to receive instruction on the Christian faith, you are invited to speak with Pastor Jeff following the service.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING SONG: *Are You Washed in the Blood*

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Refrain

Are you washed.... in the blood.....,
In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?
Are your garments spotless, are they white as snow?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin
And be washed in the blood of the Lamb.
There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean.
O, be washed in the blood of the Lamb! **Refrain**

Are you walking daily by the savior's side
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb
Do you rest each moment in the Crucified
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb **Refrain**

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Loving God,
C: We confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen

GATHERING SONG:

Precious Memories

Precious memories, unseen angels,
Sent from somewhere to my soul,
How they linger, ever near me
And the sacred past unfolds

Refrain

Precious Memories how they linger
How they ever flood my soul
In the stillness of the midnight
Precious sacred scenes unfold

As I travel down life's pathway
Knowing not what the years may hold
As I ponder hopes grow fonder
Precious memories flood my soul **Refrain**

Precious father loving mother
Fly across the lonely years
And old home scenes from my childhood
In fond memory appear **Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God,

C: The strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-9

P: The lesson is from 1 Corinthians, the 3rd chapter.

1Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, 3for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? 4For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? 5What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. 6I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. 9For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

P: The word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:21-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 21"‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ 22But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. 23So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. 25Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. 26Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27"‘You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29If your right eye causes you to sin, tear

it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. 31“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ 34But I say to you, do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

P: The gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Jeff Steeber

SONG OF THE DAY:

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled,” His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. **Refrain**

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. **Refrain**

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Everyone is invited to gather around the altar for the remainder of the service. As you come forward you may place your offering in the offering plate on the stand. After the singing of "Jesus, Lamb of God" those receiving communion will be invited to kneel or stand next to the communion railing. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Communion is by intinction: receive the bread – dip the bread into the cup – then consume the body and blood of Christ. If you are unable to come forward, Holy Communion can be brought to you.

PRAYERS

P: Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing. Holy Lord, you alone are God. Remove jealousy and quarreling between Christian denominations. Hold us in the unity of our baptism as we work together to serve you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You called into being the first fruits of the earth. Guide gardeners and farmers who till the soil and tend the fields. Bless their work and in due season bring forth the bounty of the land. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, your love knows no bounds. Break down barriers caused by nationalism. Challenge our stereotypes. Give us courage to engage in difficult conversations with those whose experiences are different from our own. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on all who struggle especially... Ease the pain of families affected by divorce. Grant life-giving work to all who seek employment. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You know every hair on our heads. Yet we do not even know each of our neighbors. Equip our outreach ministry and this assembly to get to know the people in our community. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Eternal Lord, you are the God of our ancestors in faith. You are our God. Keep us faithful until we join all the saints at your heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: As we gather around this table tonight, we remember how in 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

SONG:*Jesus, Lamb of God***WP 76**

Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is your name;
Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is your name. *Repeat*

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COMMUNION**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

C: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG:*When the Saints Go Marching In***Refrain**

Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Oh, when the saints go marching in,
I want to be in that number,

When the saints go marching in.

And when the sun refuse to shine,
Oh, when the sun refuse to shine,
I want to be in that number,
When the sun refuse to shine. **Refrain**

And when the moon turns into blood,
Oh, when the moon turns into blood,
I want to be in that number
When the moon turns into blood. **Refrain**

DISMISSAL

P: Sisters and Brothers in Christ...

C: As the Gospel in action, go in peace. Remember the Poor! Thanks be to God!

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SERMON NOTES

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