

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 19, 2017 + 8:15 a.m.

First Lutheran Church + St. Peter, Minnesota

Pastor Alan Bray Intern Caitlin Jensen Cantor Emily Bruflat

Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread & wine we serve the community and the world.

In today's first reading we hear, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism, and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

Gathering

Gathering Music "We Are Marching in the Light of God" (see ELW 866) John Behnke

Welcome

+Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Loving God,

**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.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.

Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.

God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children.

Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of † Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

+Gathering Hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

ELW 836

+Greeting

Word

First Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy since God is holy. Holiness is lived out in partiality for and consideration of the poor and the weak. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

L: A reading from Leviticus.

¹The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

⁹When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

¹¹You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹²And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord.

¹³You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

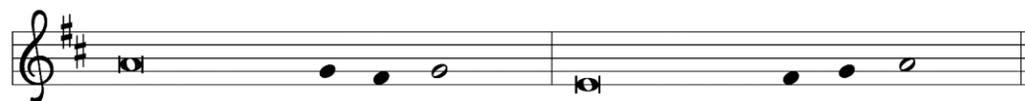
Psalm 119:33-40 (sung responsively between Leader and Congregation)

Refrain: (sung first time by Leader and by ALL thereafter):



Teach me, O LORD, the way of your stat - utes.

Tone:



³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way [|] of your statutes,
and I shall keep it [|] to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall [|] keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with [|] all my heart.**

35 Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

36 **Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain. R**

37 Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

38 **Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

39 Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

40 **Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

L: A reading from First Corinthians.

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church and its ministry. We are God's temple because God's Spirit dwells in us, and we belong to Christ. Hence we are called to build wisely upon this sure foundation not for our own benefit but for others to experience Christ's benefits.

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

18 Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

"He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

20 and again,

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

21 So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, 23 and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

+Gospel Acclamation *(sung by ALL)*

+Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:38-48

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares an end to the law of vengeance. God's people will respond to evil with love and forgiveness.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

L: The gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Intern Caitlin Jensen

+Hymn of the Day *“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”*

ELW 729

+Apostles’ Creed

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+Prayers of Intercession

+Sharing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

Meal

Offering *“Partita on Hyfrydol Part 1. Introduction, Chorale; Part 4. Adagio”* C. Callahan

+Offertory Prayer

+The Great Thanksgiving, Preface, Sanctus

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+Eucharistic Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

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Communion Distribution Hymns

“Many Are the Lightbeams” Stanzas 1 & 3

(refer to card in pew rack)

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

ELW 708

“Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ”

ELW 402

+Post-Communion Prayer

Sending

+Sending Hymn *“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”*

ELW 707

+Prayer, Announcements, Blessing, Dismissal

A: We join in proclaiming:

C: Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread and wine, we go in peace to serve our community and the world. Thanks be to God!

+Sending Music *“Fugue in C (BWV 545-2)”*

J. S. Bach

