



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
February 12, 2023 – 9:00am



OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: To be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

Sunday--9:00am Worship Service

Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson

Organist: Ruth Sheldon

Readers: Becky Helgeson

Sound: Bruce Adams

Live Stream: Brad Evenson

Acolytes: Hayden Wempen and Cora Sauer

Ushers: Taryn, Brad & Kristin Wempen

Communion Servers:

Altar Guild for February: Joan Kloster & Janet Swenson

Worship Coordinator: Becky Helgeson

The Live Stream Broadcast is sponsored by Marlin & Marjorie Senne.

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INTRODUCTION

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God,

Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness, we hear your Word in the scriptures, proclaiming to us your wisdom and inviting us to follow your call. For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother, who preached your righteousness, healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted.

For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

We worship you, O God.

By your Spirit, bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

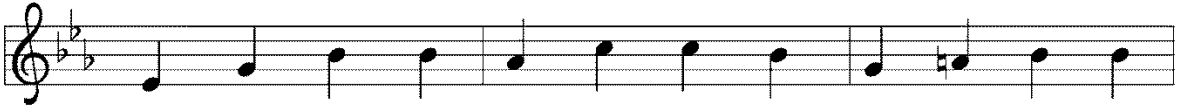
We praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us, now and forever.

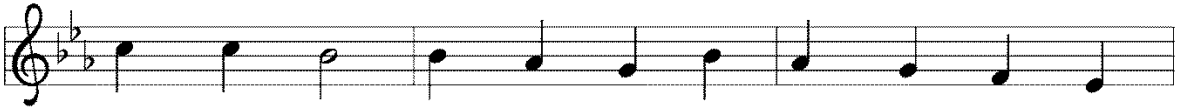
Amen.

We stand for the gathering hymn.

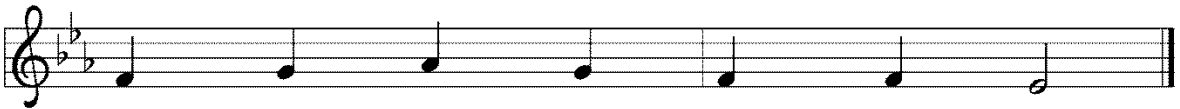
GATHERING SONG *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken* ELW #603



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
 2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
 3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
 4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
 5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
 world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
 seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
 in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
 be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
 all the fail - ures we con - fess.
 set us free and grant us peace.
 make us stron - ger, give us faith.
 God, en - cour - age and re - new!

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, 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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Choose Life with God!

Whirl Story Bible p.78

WORD

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE SONG

How Long, O God

ELW #698



- 1 "How long, O God?" the psalm-ist cries, a cry we make our own,
- 2 The e - vil lurks with - in, with-out, it threat-ens to de - stroy
- 3 Your grace, O God, seems far a - way; will heal - ing ev - er come?
- 4 How can we hope? How can we sing? O God, set free our voice
- 5 "How long, O God?" the psalm-ist cries, a cry we make our own.



for we are lost, a - lone, a - fraid, and far a - way from home.
 the frag - ile cords that make us one, that bind our hearts in joy.
 Our bro - ken lives lie bro - ken still; will night give way to dawn?
 to name the sor - rows, name the pain, that we might yet re - joice.
 Though we are lost, a - lone, a - fraid, our God will lead us home.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW #671

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
 blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-37

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
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.”

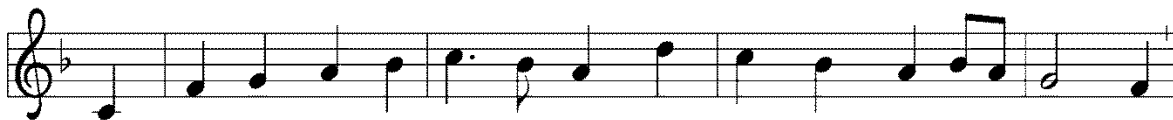
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

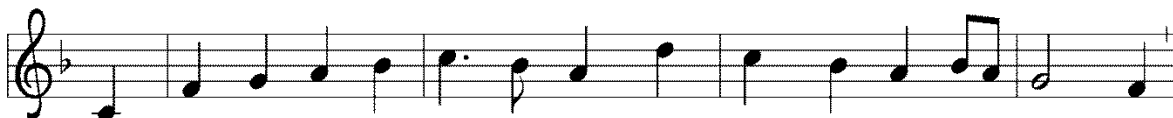
HYMN OF THE DAY

What God Ordains Is Good Indeed

ELW #776



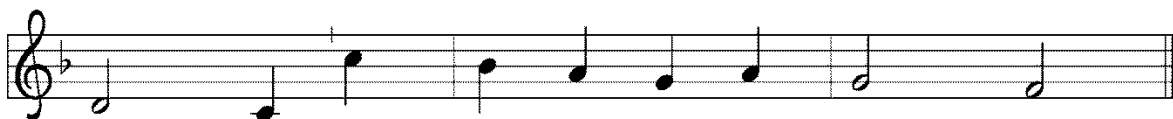
- 1 What God or - dains is good in - deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
- 2 What God or - dains is good in - deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
- 3 What God or - dains is good in - deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
- 4 What God or - dains is good in - deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.
No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.
I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."
on dan - ger's path, in deep - est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -
Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing
God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -
My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will



fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.
clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.
mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.
hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We will be seated for the prayers.

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence.

Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the
exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops,
shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful
God, **receive our prayer.**

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of
farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change.
Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the
world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions
where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit.
Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief
workers to bring hope. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by
systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those

struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The pastor concludes the prayers.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SENDING

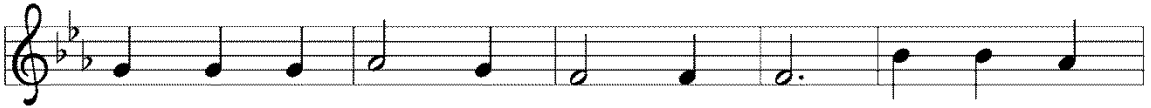
BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod †
bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

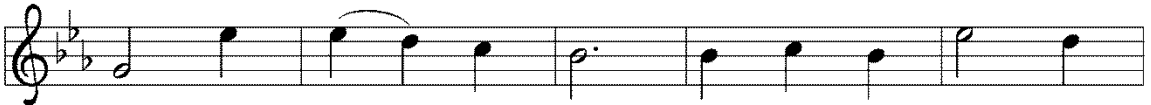
SENDING HYMN

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW #818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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