



*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our
Savior Jesus Christ.”*

2 Peter 3:18

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 12, 2017



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service today we gather before our heavenly Father to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. May he bless our worship and study today!

For Your Convenience

- Kid's church is available for children 3 years old to 2nd grade prior to the sermon.
- Restrooms are available down the hallway on the right.
- If you would like a hearing device to assist you for worship, please speak with one of the ushers.
- The ushers are at the entrance of the sanctuary to answer any other questions you might have.

Today's Focus

The Savior's Sermon: Live a holy life! Jesus came to free us *from* sin. He did not come to free us *to* sin. The commands in the lessons today remind us just how holy our God is, and their dire warnings remind us just how holy he wants us to be. After examining our lives, we must despair, but the Verse of the Day reminds us to flee to Christ who has the words of life. Then the Prayer of the Day asks that we might be given the grace to both know and do what pleases him.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OPENING HYMN

Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening
Christian Worship Hymn 283; st 1-3

Speak, O Savior; I am list'ning, As a servant to his lord.
Let me show respect and honor To your holy, precious Word,
That each day, my whole life through, I may serve and follow you.
Let your Word e'er be my pleasure And my heart's most precious treasure.

Oh, what blessing to be near you And to listen to your voice!
Let me ever love and fear you; Let your Word still be my choice.
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at your Word,
But to all who feel sin's burden You give peace and words of pardon.

Lord, your words are waters living Where I quench my thirsty needs.
Lord, your words are bread life-giving; On your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unfailing.

Text: Anna Sophia of Hesse-Darmstadt, 1638–83, abr.; tr. composite.

INVOCATION

L: Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

C: Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.

L: All the earth bows down to you;

C: they sing praise to you; they sing praise to your name." *(Psalm 66:1-2)*

CONFESSION OF SINS

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

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

L: Let us join together to confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Lord, to you I make confession: I have sinned and gone astray;
I have multiplied transgression, Chosen for myself my way.
Led by you to see my errors, Lord, I tremble at your terrors.**

**Lord, on you I cast my burden—Sink it in the depths below!
Let me know your gracious pardon; Wash me, make me white as snow.
Let your Spirit leave me never; Make me only yours forever.**

(Christian Worship Hymn 302; st 1, 4)

ABSOLUTION OF SINS

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray...

Christian Worship Hymn 283; st 4

**C: As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let your words in me take root.
May your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.**

L: Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (NIV 1984)

PSALM OF THE DAY

Thy Word Is A Lamp

Refrain



Thy Word is a lamp un-to__ my feet And a light un-to my path.

Choir: When I feel afraid, Think I've lost my way, Still you're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear As long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

C: Refrain

Choir: I will not forget Your love for me, and yet My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide, And hold me to your side, And I will love you to the end.

C: Refrain

Choir: Nothing will I fear As long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

C: Refrain

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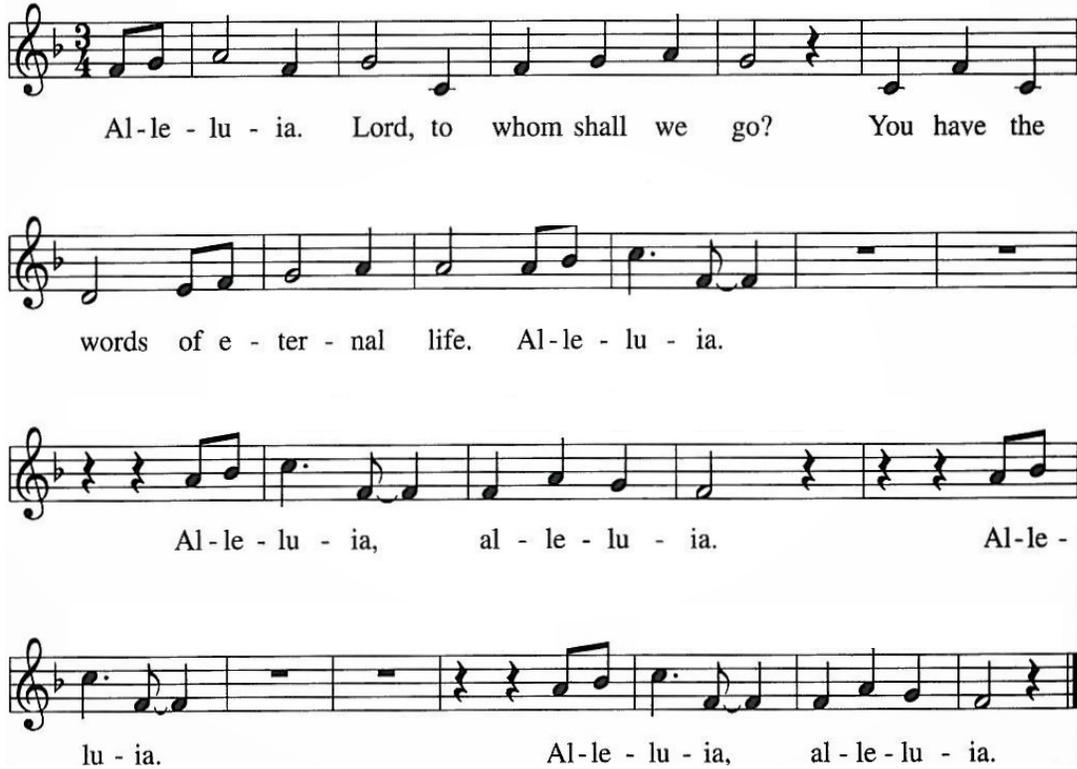
SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 2:6-13

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written: "*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him*"—¹⁰ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. (NIV 1984)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le -
lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-37

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. *Continued on next page*

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹ “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴ But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. (NIV 1984)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
Christian Worship Hymn 452

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,
Flee the world which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in his footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me. Savior, lead; I follow thee.

Let us suffer here with Jesus, To his image e'er conform;
Heaven's glory soon will please us, Sunshine follow on the storm.
Though we sow in tears of sorrow, We shall reap in heav'nly joy,
And the fears that now annoy Shall be laughter on the morrow.
Christ, I suffer here with thee; There, oh, share thy joy with me.

Let us also die with Jesus. His death from the second death,
From our soul's destruction, frees us, Quickens us with life's glad breath.
Let us mortify, while living, Flesh and blood and die to sin,
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here I die to thee, There to live eternally.

Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since he's risen from the dead,
Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, thou art now our head.
We are truly thine own members; Where thou livest, there live we.
Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.
Jesus, here I live to thee, Also there eternally.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. J. Adam Rimbach, 1871–1941, alt.

SERMON

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

“The LORD Is Your Life”

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord's Supper is a blessing from God through which he strengthens our faith.

It is also an expression of our faith.

If we have not had the opportunity to talk to you about our beliefs, we ask that you wait before you join us for the Lord's Supper.

PREFACE

L: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al - so with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.



C: **We lift them up un - to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: **It is good and right so to do.**

L: 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

Sanctus



With ser - a - phim fly - ing, Their glad an - thems cry - ing, All



heav - en and earth show God's glo - ry a - right. "How



ho - ly! How ho - ly!" Re - peat it: "How ho - ly, The



Lord God of hosts, God of pow - er and might!" God's



child - ren, re - ply - ing, "Ho - sann - a!" are cry - ing. "He



comes in the Lord's name, most bless - ed is he!" Ho -



sann - a! Ho - sann - a! The high - est ho - sann - as To



God and the Lamb, by whose blood we are free!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: 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."

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

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

Christian Worship Supplement Hymn 748; st 1 & 3

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But you have sent him from your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God.

I was so lost; I should have died,
But you have brought me to your side
To be led by your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain:

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
Oh, wash me in his precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
Oh, wash me in his precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION

SONG OF THANKS

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart; Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart; Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the poor say "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the poor say "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give Thanks.

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PRAYER FOR PEACE

L: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you.
Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts
may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our
enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ
our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

L: 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways
Christian Worship Hymn 462

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do his will!

Order my footsteps by your Word,
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget your way,
Restore your wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in your commands—
'Tis a delightful road—
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.