



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

*2 Peter 3:18*

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 19, 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: Love your enemies! What could be more counterintuitive? Yet Christ calls his disciples to a love for our neighbor that models itself after Jesus' love for the world. As Luther said: *Christi sumus in nominativo et genitivo* (We are Christs—with and without the apostrophe). A heart like Christ's has no room for vengeance, but is filled with love for all.

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## OPENING HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
*Christian Worship Hymn 234; st 1-3*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen All that is needful has been  
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of his mercy did shade you.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. composite.

## INVOCATION

L: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

L: Know that the LORD is God.

**C: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his  
pasture.** *(Psalm 100:1-3)*

## CONFESSION OF SINS

L: God has been good to us and blessed us. But tempted by the Devil, the sinful world around us, and our own sinful flesh, we have sinned against him. In grace and mercy, God has invited us to lay our sins on Jesus and be fully forgiven.

**C: I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains  
White in his blood most precious Till not a spot remains.**

*(Christian Worship Hymn 372; st 1)*

## 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 411; st 1)*

**C: What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!**

L: Gracious Father, keep your family, the Church, always faithful to you, that we may lean on the hope of your promises and be strong in the power of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Leviticus 19:1, 2, 17, 18

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

<sup>17</sup>”“Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.

<sup>18</sup>”“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” (NIV 1984)

## HYMN RESPONSE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
*Christian Worship Hymn 234; st 4*

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do  
As with his love he befriends you.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 103  
*Christian Worship page 105*

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
He forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;  
he redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with love and compassion.  
The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.  
He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear  
him;  
as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those  
who fear him;  
for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.  
Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone.  
But the LORD’S love is with those who fear him from everlasting to everlasting.

## SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 3:10, 11, 16-23

<sup>10</sup> By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ...

<sup>16</sup> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

<sup>18</sup> Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. <sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; <sup>20</sup> and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile".

<sup>21</sup> So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, <sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, <sup>23</sup> and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God. (NIV 1984)

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 6:36

L: Alleluia. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Alleluia.

## HYMN RESPONSE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
*Christian Worship Hymn 234; st 5*

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen Sound from his people again;  
Gladly forever adore him!

## GOSPEL

Matthew 5:38-48

<sup>38</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' <sup>39</sup> But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the

other also. <sup>40</sup> And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup> If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (NIV 1984)

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Is the Gracious Gift  
*Christian Worship Hymn 505*

Love is the gracious gift of your goodness;  
Love is the patient fruit of your care;  
Love is the gentle work of your Spirit,  
Who is the source of love ev'rywhere.

You loved me first, Lord, sending me Jesus.  
Then I responded, trusting your Son.  
Now you invite me to love my neighbor,  
Showing your true love to ev'ryone.

Love means forgiveness, patience, and kindness;  
Love is not jealous, boastful, or rude.  
Love endures all things, bearing, believing;  
Love hopes forever, rejoices in truth.

Love in a marriage, love freely given,  
Love of a husband, love of a wife—  
Made to continue, blossom, and flourish,  
Grow ever deeper throughout this life.

Love among Christians, love in the fam'ly,  
Love for the Savior, whose blood was shed,  
Love and submission one to another  
As unto Christ, who reigns as our head.

Text: Donald E. Smith, b. 1952, alt. © 1985 Donald E. Smith. All rights reserved.



## **SERMON**

Matthew 5:38-48

“Love as You have been Loved”

## **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*



Ghost, Thou Three in One. Our ho - san - nas

loud - ly cry: Bless - ed Je - sus from on high. Al - le - lu - ia!

**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*

Lamb of God, you take a - way All the sin - ful world's trans - gress - ion;

Let your mer - cy now, we pray And your peace be our poss - ess - ion.

Grant us from our sins re - lease. Lord, have mer - cy, grant us peace!

## DISTRIBUTION

## SONG OF THANKS

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer  
*Christian Worship Hymn 609; st 3*

With voices united our praises we offer;  
To you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.  
Your strong arm will guide us; our God is beside us.  
To you, our great Redeemer, fore'er be praise!

## 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**

O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee  
*Christian Worship Hymn 316*

O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee  
My heartfelt thanks forever be,  
Who hast so lovingly bestowed  
On me thy body and thy blood.

Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:  
What wealth is come to me this day!  
My Savior dwells within my heart—  
How blest am I! How good thou art!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928.