



# Christ Lutheran Church

February 16, 2020  
Sixth Sunday After Epiphany



“I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light.”  
– **Helen Keller**

“Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It’s not something you learn in school. But if you haven’t learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven’t learned anything.”  
– **Muhammad Ali**

“A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow.”  
– **William Shakespeare**

“A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.”  
– **Walter Winchell**

“Don’t walk behind me; I may not lead. Don’t walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.”  
– **Albert Camus**

“Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down.” – **Oprah Winfrey**

*The Hands of Christ  
Worshiping Learning Serving  
Together*

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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.

**Welcome Visitors!** Please sign our guest book in the Gathering Area.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday. Everyone who seeks the Lord for forgiveness, mercy, and new life for daily living is welcome to the table. Ushers will direct you. If you prefer grape juice to wine, cups will be provided at the altar. Please dispose of your cups in the baskets at the end of the altar rail. Children are also invited to participate.

### **WE GATHER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *Psalm 119:1-8*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose way is blameless,  
who follow the teaching of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they who observe your decrees  
and seek you with all their hearts,**

<sup>3</sup>who never do any wrong,  
but always walk in your ways.

<sup>4</sup>**You laid down your commandments,  
that we should fully keep them.**

<sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were made so direct  
that I might keep your statutes!

<sup>6</sup>**Then I should not be put to shame,  
when I regard all your commandments.**

<sup>7</sup>I will thank you with a true heart,  
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

<sup>8</sup>**I will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me.**

**GATHERING HYMN:** *What Is This Place* #524 Red Hymnal

## **Pancake Sunday**

Come celebrate Fat Tuesday on  
**Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
after church service.



There will be egg cup omelets, sausage, drinks, and of course pancakes!  
There will be a free offering to the Military Moms of Brazoria County.

Throughout Lent, we will be collecting donations for the following  
items in include in military care packages:



**Foot Powder**  
**Men's Deodorant**  
**Men's Razor's (3-4 per package)**  
**Mouthwash (TRAVEL SIZE ONLY)**



February 26<sup>th</sup> - 12 Noon

Imposition of Ashes  
Holy Communion



	February 16, 2020	February 23, 2020	February 26, 2020
<b>Reader</b>	David Lykken	David Lykken	
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Drake Donna Tetlow		
<b>Greeter</b>	Louise Drake	Barbara Shipp	
<b>Ppt Tech</b>	Dave McCrery	Jean Warren	
<b>Musician</b>	Linda Pirtle	Mary Morgan	Mary Morgan
<b>\$ Counters</b>	Jose Saavedra Charlotte Braden	Charlotte Braden Diane Tweedle	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Agnes's Team		
If you would like to be a part of the <u>Altar Guild</u> contact the Church Office: clcoffice2019@gmail.com or 979-297-2013.			

**Calendar:**

- Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, Worship, 9:00AM  
Discussion Group, 10:15AM
- Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, Boredom Busters, 12:30PM
- Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Book Club, 10:00AM  
Bread for Life, 11:30AM
- Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, Choir Practice, 6:30PM
- Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Worship, 9:00AM  
Discussion Group, 10:15AM

**Attendance Last Weekend: 43**

Lord's Work	Income	Expenses	+/-
January	\$15,316.00	\$15,848.13	-\$532.13
YTD 2020	\$15,316.00	\$15,848.13	-\$532.13
Bldg Loan	Income	Expenses	+/-
January	\$6,852.00	\$4,949.53	\$1,902.47
YTD 2020	\$6,852.00	\$4,949.53	\$1,902.47

**GREETING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all. **Amen.**

**KYRIE** *Lord, Have Mercy* page 184, Red Hymnal

*Refrain*

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
 hun - gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam - i - ly; for  
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

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.**

*We share God's peace with one another.*

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



! Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - migh-t-y God and Fa - ther,



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Faithful God, you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### **WE ARE SENT**

#### **BLESSING**

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:** *Rise Up, O Saints of God* #669 Red Hymnal

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Let our light shine.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Preaching/Presiding:** *Paul Geisler, Jr*

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est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**THE 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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy.

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you  
*Refrain*  
for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-  
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.  
*Refrain*  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -  
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.  
 A - men. A - men. A - men.  
*Final refrain*  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's  
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -  
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**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

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of wonder,  
**you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.**

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
 Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -

God of hope, you provide bountifully for all people. Use our lives to alleviate global injustice and eliminate poverty, that all benefit from the abundant gifts you pour out for your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of growth, you nurture this community. Cultivate in us a spirit of service to one another, and bless us in the ministry we share (*ministries of the congregation may be named*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**  
*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of joy, you give us health and strength for our daily life. Walk alongside all who are suffering and their caregivers. We pray for Alison Blevins, Liz Ellett, Agnes Harris, Dennis Jones, David Lykken, Roselyn Lykken, Jimmy Neece, Richard Poklikuha, Steve Ray, Dennis Smith, Gail Smith, Joy Stanley, Donna Tetlow, Randy Morgan, and Joy Stanley, that God would lift up people to provide care and consolation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of steadfast faithfulness, give strength to those who daily live with pain or illness. Walk alongside all caregivers with your never-failing presence. We pray especially Dorothy Krug, Terry Partridge, and Connie Spangenburg for that God lift up people to provide care and consolation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of grace, you watch us every day of our lives. Grant joy and encouragement to those celebrating birthdays this week: Esther Braden, Duane Rayburn, Skyler Furlow, and Sierra Rieschick. Give them the peace of knowing your gracious love for them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah and Rachel, we give you thanks for our forebears in the faith who now rest in your eternal grace and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **WE SHARE THE HOLY MEAL**

#### **OFFERING & VIDEO MEDITATION**

we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

### **WE HEAR THE WORD**

**READING:** *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

*The LORD sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.*

[Moses said to the people:] <sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If 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. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I 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. <sup>19</sup>I 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, <sup>20</sup>loving 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.* You are the light of the world.

**A city set upon a hill cannot be hid. *Alleluia.* (Matt. 5:14)**

**GOSPEL:** *Matthew 5:21-37*

The Gospel for today, from the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Matthew

**Thanks be to God.**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But 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. <sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come 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. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If 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. <sup>30</sup>And 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.

<sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup>But 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.

<sup>33</sup>“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.’ <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let 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.**

## MESSAGE

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Blessed Assurance #638 Red Hymnal*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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.**  
*\*universal*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, you protect and guide us with your word. Lead your church into ever closer relationship with you, that we might better know your commands, hold fast to your decrees, and live in your law. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the cosmos, heaven and earth bear witness to the splendor of all you have created. Bless the ground, trees, waterways, and skies with abundant life. Restore synergy between humankind and the natural world, that we may live in harmony with the world you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, you show solidarity with all who suffer. Bring an end to violence, war, discrimination, and all other forms of deadly hate, that we may experience your love through the power of justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**