

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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February 12, 2023 – 10:30 AM

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



Introduction to Worship

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.

You can find the live stream at the following locations:

www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude “The King of Love my Shepherd Is”

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness *[Please stand if you are able]*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

Opening Hymn – *Come All You People* ELW #819

Greeting

P: Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

II 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.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. . . 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.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First 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.

L: The First Reading is from the Thirtieth chapter of Deuteronomy

[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.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Psalm: Psalm 117:1-8

Happy are they who follow the teaching of the Lord. (Ps. 119:1)

L: ¹Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!

C: ²**Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,**

L: ³who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways

C: ⁴**You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.**

L: ⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

C: ⁶**Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.**

L: ⁷I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.

C: ⁸**I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

L: The Second Reading is from the third chapter of 1 Corinthians

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.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Gospel Acclamation (Please stand)WOV 31



The Holy Gospel - Matthew 5: 21-37

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter: C: **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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

(Be seated after the gospel)

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn – *On Eagle's Wings* ELW #787

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

P: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P: Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice.
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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,

C: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

P: Nurture all in need (*especially*). 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 (*local restorative efforts may be named*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offertory Choir Anthem - Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue ELW #644

Presentation of the Gifts

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

P: 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,

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: 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.

Announcements

Sending Blessing

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless,
strengthen, and uphold you, today and always

C: Amen.

Sending Song - *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*..... ELW #631

Dismissal.

P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

| | BIRTHDAYS | ANNIVERSARIES | BAPTISMS |
|----|-----------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 12 | Steven Streletz | | Haley Rodd |
| 13 | Miriam Anderson | | |
| 15 | Norma Fox | Betty & George Kreitz (65) | |
| 16 | Kathy Haney | | |
| 17 | Betty Kreitz | | |

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Activity</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, February 12, 2023 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany | 9:30 10:30 | Adult Forum – Current events Worship Souper bowl Sunday, Bring Soup! |
| Monday, February 13, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Church Council |
| Friday, February 17, 2023 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM 3:00 - 7:00 PM | Soup preparation Soup on sale – Chicken Noodle |

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Activity</u> |
|--|---|--|
| Sunday, February 19, 2023 Sunday after Epiphany | 9:30 AM 10:30 AM After Church 5:00 PM-7:30 PM | Adult Forum – Current events Worship 2023 Annual Meeting Confirmation class @ Durham |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, February 21, 2023 | 6:30 PM | Shrove Tuesday Pot Luck Supper in the Fellowship hall. Bring old palms. |
| Wednesday, February 22, 2023 Ash Wednesday | 1:00 PM 7:00 PM | Spoken service Regular service |
| Sunday February 26, 2023 First Sunday in Lent | 10:30 AM 5:00 PM | Worship Reverse Advent Calendar celebration dinner @ Trinity Pleasant Valley |
| Sunday, March 5, 2023 Second Sunday in Lent | 10:30 AM 2:00 PM | Worship Upper Bucks (Koinonia) Conference Annual Assembly |

Chat & Chew – Pastor Jim will be available in the church office each Thursday at Noon for Chat & Chew. Bring a bag lunch and join the conversation!

Congregation Constitution– We are looking for a few volunteers for updating it this year for approval in the 2024 congregational meeting. This will require about 1-2 hour per month for up to 6 months. Please see Ken Anderson for more information.

February Outreach - The offering envelopes are being collected for the Allentown Rescue Mission (allentownrescuemission.org) homeless shelter. We are also collecting soup for local food banks. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to donate an Outreach Basket. You can either buy the supplies for the basket or Helen Dungan can shop for you.



EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

Your gift to Lutheran World Relief's emergency response fund will deliver urgently needed support and care, like:

- Food, water and other critically needed items
- Temporary shelter
- Medicine and supplies for clinics.



 LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

lwr.org/quake

AP Photo/Ghaith Alsayed

Please lift up in prayer the following:



Keep in your
PRAYERS

For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Michael Altemus; Esther Crouse; Joanne & David Antoni; Frank Erceg; Virginia Hager; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Barbara Naska; Donnie Pyne; and Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Michael Barats; Anthony Beck; Aiden Benoure; Jason Bigley; Kelly Bordelon; Emma Brown; Ollie Butler; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Stephanie Courtney; Miriam Deal; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Joann Gary; Candie Gimbar; Penni Griffith; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Lauren Keebler; Martine King; Cecelia Kukuchka; Chelsea Marley; Jim McAnally; Sean McNulty; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Debra Patten; Jennifer Phelps; Tom Ross; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; Lani Schlegel; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Nancy Vetter; and Henry Wong.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox;. Betty Kreitz; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; Silas Rodenbach; and Hal Taylor.

For the grieving:

Wanda Altemose; LaDonna Gibbs; Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Lisa Pezzino; Donald Seipt; Linda Wilson

Helping in Worship

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Preacher | Rev. James Heckman |
| Organist/Choir Director | Carolyn Williams |
| Acolyte | Addyson Mammana |
| Altar | Mark Harwick & Bea von Watzdorf |
| Lector | Scott Gaun |
| Greeter(s) | Scott Gaun |
| Communion Usher | Mark Harwick |
| Council Counting Team | Barb Naska & Becky Praster |
| Administration & Technology | Ken Anderson |
| Custodian | Dianna Streletz |
| | |

