



Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany

FEBRUARY 15, 2009



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
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CALLED TO SUFFER!

Good morning!

...or is it? Some mornings when it seems like everything is going wrong, we might wonder, "Where is God?" How can a loving God allow bad things to come into our life? When we are called to follow, we realize that suffering is part of the Christian life as well. However, we realize that through this, God is glorified and we are blessed.

Opening Song..... "Come Unto Me, Ye Weary"
Christian Worship Hymn 336

"Come unto me, ye weary,
And I will give you rest."
O blessed voice of Jesus,
Which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction,
Of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that has no ending,
Of love that cannot cease.

"Come unto me, ye fainting,
And I will give you life."
O cheering voice of Jesus,
Which comes to aid our strife!
The foe is stern and eager;
The fight is fierce and long;
But thou hast made us mighty
And stronger than the strong.

"Come unto me, ye wand'rers,
And I will give you light."
O loving voice of Jesus,
Which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness,
And we had lost our way;
But thou hast brought us gladness
And songs at break of day.

"And whosoever cometh,
I will not cast him out."
O patient love of Jesus,
Which drives away our doubt,
Which, though we be unworthy
Of love so great and free,
Invites us very sinners To come, dear Lord,
to thee!

Text and Tune: public domain.

Welcome to Tree of Life!

The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times: **"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)**
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)**
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell:
"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that:
"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life." (John 3:16)
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross: **"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)**
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper:
"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ." (Romans 10:17)
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (Psalm 119:32)**
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others: **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)**
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior:
"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)

We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

The Common Service *Goldenrod Booklet*
STAND

Confession of Sins *Goldenrod Booklet, pages 6-7*

Prayer and Praise: "Glory to God"
Goldenrod Booklet, pages 8-11

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON JOB 7:1-7

*"Life is often hard, and it can easily seem futile.
Our hope is in the fact that God does remember us!"*

- 1 "Does not man have hard service on earth?
Are not his days like those of a hired man?"
- 2 Like a slave longing for the evening shadows,
or a hired man waiting eagerly for his wages,
- 3 so I have been allotted months of futility,
and nights of misery have been assigned to me.
- 4 When I lie down I think, 'How long before I get up?'
The night drags on, and I toss till dawn.
- 5 My body is clothed with worms and scabs,
my skin is broken and festering.
- 6 "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle,
and they come to an end without hope.
- 7 Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath;
my eyes will never see happiness again.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 103 *Christian Worship* page 105

Refrain: *I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.*

Praise to 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.*

Refrain

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.*

Refrain

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.*

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen***

Refrain

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 forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion *Goldenrod Booklet* pages 15-19



*At Tree of Life, we desire to have all commune with us at the Lord's Table.
However, since the Scripture encourages us to "recognize the body and blood of
the Lord," "examine ourselves," and join together as "one body," we ask those
who are visiting with us this morning to take the time to understand these*

*teachings and establish a unity of beliefs with us before partaking of this act of fellowship.
By this practice of close communion, we are in no way judging your personal faith and
relationship with Jesus, we just ask for an opportunity for us to share our beliefs with you so
that together we can make a true expression of oneness at the Lord's Table.*

Blessing *Goldenrod Booklet, page 20-21*

Closing Hymn "O Master Of The Loving Heart"
Christian Worship Hymn 491

O Master of the loving heart,
The friend of all in need,
We pray that we may be like you
In thought and word and deed.

Your face was warm with sympathy;
Your hand God's strength revealed;
Who saw your face or felt your touch
Were comforted and healed.

Your days were full of kindly acts;
Your speech was true and plain;
Of those who ever sought you, Lord,
None came to you in vain.

Oh, grant us hearts like yours, dear Lord,
So joyous, free and true,
That all your children, ev'rywhere,
Be drawn by us to you.

Prayer of the Church EPIPHANY SEASON- RESPONSIVE

This prayer is found on page 124 of Christian Worship

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

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SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 8:28-30

"God works ALL things for the good of those who love him."

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

M: Alleluia. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Alleluia.

STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 1:29-39

"People's illnesses became Jesus' opportunities to heal and show his glory."

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. ³¹So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³²That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place

³⁵Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

³⁸Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Statement of Belief 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 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.

BE SEATED

Hymn "Hail To The Lord's Anointed"
Christian Worship Hymn 93

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!

Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,

To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with rescue speedy
To those who suffer wrong,

To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong,

To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light

Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Are precious in his sight.

Kings shall bow down before him
And gold and incense bring;

All nations shall adore him;
His praise all people sing.

To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend,

His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest,

From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.

The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;

His name shall stand forever --
That name to us is Love.

KID'S CHURCH

Jesus Teaches about Commitment

Children ages 3 years to 2nd grade

CALLED TO SUFFER!

Job 7:1-7

Pastor Mike Geiger

"Create in Me" *Goldenrod Booklet page 14*

Friendship Registers

Offering