

February 5, 2023

5th Sunday of Epiphany

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Joseph Weller

Acolyte: Maxwell Kuehne



PREACH

I COR. 2:6-13



1449 34th St. NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881
winterhavenlutheran.org

Vance Fossum, Pastor	(803) 556-3161
Neil Bernthal, Teacher	(863) 967-5145
Katie Naumann, Teacher	(253) 230-4184

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

"Now when it was day, He (Jesus) departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent." (Luke 4:42-43)

Welcome to all in the name of Jesus, the Christ!

Jesus' mission on earth was to "preach the kingdom of God," literally "to gospel the kingdom of God." The "kingdom of God" (synonymous with "kingdom of heaven") Is the great idea of the New Testament. This is God's kingdom, whose very nature is that of heaven. The kingdoms of this world are only weak symbols of God's kingdom. For example: Worldly kingdoms make their kings or unmake them; but God is the eternal ruler of the kingdom which can only be made by Him and will never be unmade by anyone or anything.

Worldly kingdoms have only subjects; but we and all believers in Christ are partakers of His spiritual and eternal kingdom. The kingdoms of this world are at a physical place, while the kingdom of God is within the spiritual people of God wherever they may be. The kingdoms of this world perish in time; the kingdom of God endures forever. Worldly kingdoms are created and ruled by force and physical weaponry; God's kingdom is created and preserved by grace through the preaching of the gospel of forgiveness. The kingdom- mission of our Lord Jesus continues to this day through the preaching of those who are also faithful to His saving Word.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

INTROIT

P Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice:

C Have mercy also upon me and answer me.

P Pastor

P When You said, "Seek My Face,"

C Congregation

C My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

P Do not hide Your face from me;

C Do not turn Your servant away in anger;

P You have been my help;

C Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. Amen.

HYMN: WS #758

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** You who are dearly loved by God, “this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (1 Tim. 1:15) And “God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:17)

Therefore, let us come near to the throne of grace, seeking forgiveness for all our sins in the Name of Jesus the Christ, Who became Man in order to suffer and die for us, and so present Himself to His Father as perfect payment for the sins of the world.

HYMN: TLH #63:2

“On Jordan’s Banks the Herald’s Cry”

**Then cleansed be ev’ry Christian breast
And furnished for so great a Guest
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

- C** O most merciful God, You have given Your Only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us the forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, so that by Your grace through faith in Jesus Christ we may come to everlasting life; all this we ask in His saving Name. Amen.

- P** Since God has given to you the Keys of the Kingdom of heaven (Mt. 16:18, John 20:23), and as you have called me to administer the same, even so, by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved! For if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed! . . . O Lord, grant this unto us all.

- C** Amen!

THE SALUTATION:

- P** May our Lord be with you...
C and also with you.

THE COLLECT:

- P** Almighty God, by Your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior, You gave the Apostles many wonderful gifts, and commanded them to feed the flock purchased with the blood of Your dear Son. We pray that You would make all pastors faithful preachers of Your saving Word, and by Your enabling Spirit put Your word in the hearts and on the lips of those who hear. So shall your

heavenly kingdom be spread to Your glory and the everlasting salvation of many. In Jesus' name we pray,

 **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Deuteronomy 30:14-20 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. 15 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 5:27-37 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 31 “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery. 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ 34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of

the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

HYMN: TLH #533

"Nearer My God to Thee"

Savior, I long to walk closer with Thee;
Led by Thy guiding hand, ever to be
Constantly near Thy side, quickened and purified,
Living for Him Who died freely for me.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

HYMN: TLH #296

"Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth"

SERMON – I Corinthians 2:6-13 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: "Eye

has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

What Makes Great Preaching?


I. The message received through the Spirit of God.

II. The message believed through the Spirit of God.

OFFERTORY

WS p.16

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

- C**  **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

HYMN: TLH #234


“Holy Ghost, with Light Divine”

– OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING HYMN: WS #788:1

“Lord, You Love...”

- C**  **Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true
That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.**


GENERAL PRAYER and the LORD’S PRAYER

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts!
C We lift them up to the Lord!

**The Order of Holy
Communion**



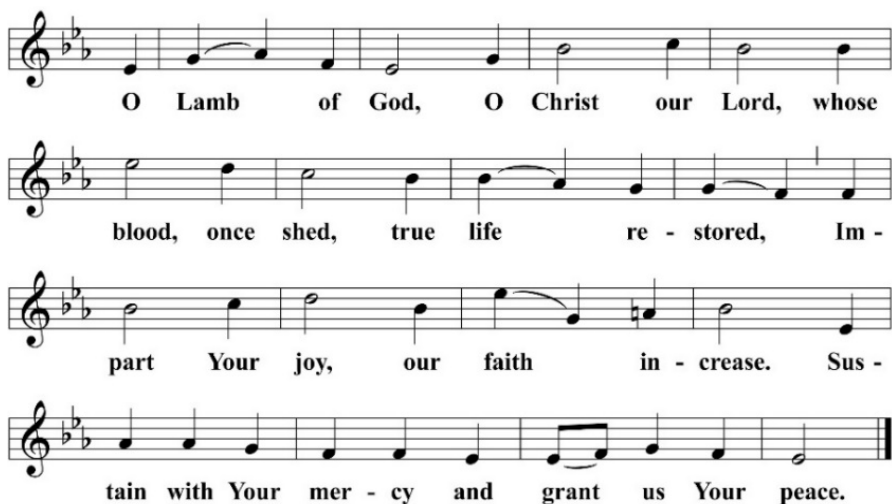
P It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God: Who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

C  Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabbaoth, adored; Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me." And the peace of the Lord will be with you always!



Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, you'll want to find out if our church teaches what the Bible does! The pastor would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience!

THE DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated.

- P** Take and eat. This is the true body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink. This cup is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

May this body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith, unto life everlasting. Depart in peace. Amen.



C: 1 2

O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For
light as to lead the be - Gen - tiles Un -
as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, The God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

C: My heart has now be-come Your dwell-ing, O bless-ed,
ho-ly Trin-i-ty. With an-gels I, Your prais-es
tell-ing, Shall live in joy e-ter-nal-ly. Lord, may Your
bod-y and Your blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

THE BENEDICTION:

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen!

HYMN: WS #783

"Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep"

✠ Announcements ✠

Donations If you would like to donate non-perishable goods to stock Pastor Sauers pantry, please bring them to church. If you would like to donate money, please give any money to Christy Kuehne. She will purchase fresh groceries the week the Sauers move in. Thank you.

Help If you would like to do some final cleaning of the parsonage, please talk to Christy Kuehne. She will be there Wednesday, Feb. 8. If you can help move the Sauers into their house, we will be starting at noon on Friday, Feb. 10. Thanks.

- ✚ **Feb 5** 9:15am Bible Class
10:15 Communion service
with Pastor Fossum,
Installation of Church Officers,
Ladies' Meeting after church
- ✚ **Feb 8** Cleaning of the
Parsonage to get ready for the
Sauers moving in
- ✚ **Feb 10** 12pm Move Sauers
into the parsonage
- ✚ **Feb 12** 9:15 am Bible Class
10:15am WH Installation
Service of Pastor Sauers –
Welcome meal for Pastor
Sauers and family after the
service
- ✚ **Feb. 19** 10:15am WH service
with Church Council and Elder
Meeting after church

Installation Service Sunday, Feb. 12, will be Pastor Sauers installation. There will be a welcome meal following the service. Please bring a dish to share. Thanks.

Midweek Lenten Worship The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. Lent has been observed by Christians for centuries as a time to prepare for the Savior's death and resurrection. This year, our theme is "Chronicles of the King." Throughout this series, we will explore how the kings of Judah are a shadow of Christ, the King of kings who sits upon the throne of David, His Father, forever. We will see how the kings in Chronicles point us to Christ,

who fulfills all the kingly promises that the kings of Judah were unable to realize in themselves. We hope you will make plans to join us for worship each Wednesday during the Lenten season at 6:30 pm. -Pastor Sauers

Last Week: WH – 33 **Total Offering** = \$1083.25 |

Prop. Impr. \$50 | Tuition \$500 |

Cleaner (2/11): Naumann | **Acolyte (2/12):** Seth Bernthal

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; February 6 - February 11, '23

Mon Luke 10:38-42 Martha was serving her Lord, to be sure, and working hard to do it. But more important than what we do for Jesus is what He came to do for us, and that is what His word conveys to us. Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to His word and that was the good portion, not to be taken from her.

Tues Philippians 1:27-30 To those suffering for Jesus' sake (v29) Paul sends encouragement urging them to support one another and to stand firm in the faith in the face of opposition, just as they had seen him do when

he was with them. By this others might see what a treasure God's salvation was to them.

Wed Philippians 2:1-4 Two great enemies of striving side by side for the faith of the gospel (1:27) are human selfishness and pride. Thus Paul points the Philippians to Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us. This love, which treasures others above oneself, is the opposite of selfish ambition and conceit (v3).

Thurs Jeremiah 9:23-24 The Lord speaks through His prophet to those suffering loss. The things that the world treasures – wisdom, power, wealth – if these all be gone, God's children still have the greatest treasure. They truly know the Lord God, who delights to show His love, justice, and righteousness in the earth.

Fri Romans 5:1-5 Being declared righteous (justified) because of Jesus' blood and righteousness brings such blessings as peace with God and joy even in our sufferings. We know that the loving God who saved us through the sufferings of Jesus will also bring blessings from the things that we may suffer in this life as well.

Sat Ephesians 1:3-10 Yet again we are reminded of the tremendous spiritual blessings that we have in Jesus Christ. We can be so thankful these blessings were all God's doing from before the foundation of the world, for if it depended on us sinners, we would be lost. But as it is, our forgiveness is not in proportion to our goodness, but according to the riches of His grace (v7).

The Master's Minute (radio broadcast, Columbia, SC)

Have you ever been to "*The Church of Ambiguity*." This is the church that gives lip service to Jesus Christ, while questioning or rejecting many Bible teachings. *The Church of Ambiguity* echoes Pontius Pilate's question to Jesus: "*What is truth?*" To *The Church of Ambiguity* there is no such thing as right and wrong, truth and error, salvation, or condemnation.

Those who are comfortable in *the Church of Ambiguity* are like hummingbirds; they flit from church to church looking for something sweet – something that is entertaining, makes them feel good about themselves, or satisfies their worldly needs. The idea that the teachings of the Bible are important and must be defended is totally foreign to the *Church of Ambiguity*. As churches make Christian-Bible teaching *ambiguous – uncertain and unreliable* – the Rock of hope and salvation in Christ is being turned to mush for many souls.

No faithful Christian will knowingly choose membership in a *Church of Ambiguity*. Rather he or she shares the faith expressed in Psalm 119:

*“Your word, O LORD is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
 . . . How sweet are Your words to my taste. . . . Your Word is
 a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. . .
 My heart is set on keeping Your decrees to the very end.”*