

Worship Plan for Sunday, February 17, 2019

6 Epiphany

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 6

ELW Holy Communion Setting One

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Introduction to the day

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him and the power to heal us all.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Jeremiah.

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings (17:5-11) that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

⁵Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰Let the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (*Ps. 1:3*)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. R**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due
season, with leaves that | do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

The reading may be announced:

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Raise up faithful leaders to proclaim the gospel. Guide us in the ways of love. Empower us in ministry and service. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth. Bless deserts and canyons, farmlands and vineyards. Bring sufficient rainfall to lands parched by drought, and restore places scorched by wildfire. Protect fragile environments from harm. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations. Grant wisdom to our elected leaders for the sake of the common good. Give courage to those who suffer persecution. Give patience and perseverance to those who work to bring an end to injustice.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who do not have enough food; for those who lack money; for those who are estranged from their families; for those who worry about many things. Comfort those who mourn. Heal and strengthen those who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly. For newcomers, visitors, longtime members, and those who are absent from us today. Root us deeply in your word and increase our faith. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died (*especially*). Encourage us by their example and lead us in faith until we are united at your unending feast. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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