

## **11:00 Contemporary Worship**

**Sunday, February 12, 2023 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany, Year A**

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

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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.

### **Gathering Song**

SongSelect    I Am Resolved

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, source of our renewal,  
**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.**

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.  
**Amen.**

## **Song After Confession**

WOV #783    Seek Ye First

## **Apostolic Greeting**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
C. And also with you.

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

## **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.*

[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.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

ELW #172    Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (2x)

## **Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

[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.**

## **Children’s Message**

**Sermon: “” – Pastor Ruth Hamilton**

## **Hymn of the Day**

ELW #772     Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

## **Apostles’ Creed**

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.

## Prayers of Intercession

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

*A brief silence.*

God of life and love, 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,

**receive our prayer.**

God of life and love, give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of life and love, encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Bless us as we sit in prayerful discernment during this time of transition. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

**For what else shall we pray? (invitation to lift names/situations in prayer). Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life and love, 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,

**receive our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

## Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **Offertory Song**

SongSelect    Ancient Words

## **Offering Prayer**

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,  
**Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
    our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
    broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
    Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
    and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
    This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
    shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **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**

Come and taste the joy of God!

## **Communion Song**

ELW #471    Let Us Break Bread Together

## **Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace unto life everlasting.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Holy One,  
we thank you for the healing  
that springs forth abundantly from this table.  
Renew our strength to do justice,  
love kindness,  
and journey humbly with you.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

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

**Amen.**

## **Recessional Hymn**

W&P #144    Thy Word

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**