

## *Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany~February 16, 2020*

**THEME: The law is made clear to us so that we can see our need for a Savior.**

**HYMN 287:** *The Law of God is Good and Wise*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD** – Page 38

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**FIRST LESSON:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (EHV) (Sermon Text)

*God's Law makes spiritual neutrality impossible as it issues its commands. The law pronounces as righteous those who keep all its demands, and condemns those who do not. There is no middle ground. The seriousness of the law is underscored by Moses as he speaks to the people of Israel and urges them, Now choose life."*

15 See now, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster. 16 This is what I am commanding you today: Love the LORD your God, walk in his ways, and keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances. Then you will live and increase in number, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are going to possess.

17 But if your heart turns away, and you do not listen, and you are lured away, and you bow down to other gods and serve them, 18 then I declare to you today that you will most certainly perish. You will not live a long life on the land that you are about to enter and possess by crossing over the Jordan.

19 I call the heavens and the earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. **Choose life** so that you and your descendants may live 20 by loving the LORD your God, by listening to his voice, and by clinging to him, because that means life for you, and you will live a long life on your land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**PSALM OF THE DAY:** Psalm 119a (p.109) (sung in unison)

*The Church sings her prayer to God that the Lord would lead her in the ways of his perfect statutes.*

**SECOND LESSON:** 1 Corinthians 2:6-13 (EHV)

*Spirit-filled preaching proclaims the "secret wisdom of God" revealed in the Scriptures. By this wisdom the people of God understand the gifts of the Lord and perceive his truths.*

6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, but it is not a wisdom of this world or of the rulers of this world, who are being reduced to nothing. Instead we speak God's wisdom that has been hidden in mystery—before the ages, God foreordained that this wisdom would result in our glory. None of the rulers of this world knew it. (If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.)

But as it is written:

What no eye has seen and no ear has heard  
and no human mind has conceived—

that is what God has prepared for those who love him.

But God revealed it to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. Indeed, who among men knows a man's thoughts except the man's spirit within him? So also, no one else knows God's thoughts except God's Spirit.

What we received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we might know the blessings freely given to us by God. We also speak about these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual truths with spiritual words.

**CHOIR:** *"Eye Hath Not Seen"*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 5:21-37 (EHV) (please stand)

*Using examples drawn from the law, Jesus reveals the depths of the law's demands. Jesus' mastery over the law is greater than Moses' as he interprets the law with a certain "But I tell you..." His words reveal our need for rescue from the demands of the law.*

21 "You have heard that it was said to people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that everyone who is angry with his brother without a cause will be subject to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raca,' will have to answer to the Sanhedrin. But whoever says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of hell fire.

"So if you are about to offer your gift at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother. Then come and offer your gift.

"If someone accuses you, reach an agreement with him quickly, while you are with him on the way. Otherwise your accuser may bring you to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen I tell you: You will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery,' but I tell you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to fall into sin, pluck it out and throw it away from you. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. If your right hand causes you to fall into sin, cut it off and throw it away from you. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, causes her to be regarded as an adulteress. And whoever marries the divorced woman is regarded as an adulterer.

"Again you have heard that it was said to people long ago, 'Do not break your oaths, but fulfill your vows to the Lord.' But I tell you, do not swear at all: not by heaven, because it is God's throne; and not by earth, because it is his footstool; and not by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your own head, since you cannot make one hair white or black. Instead, let your statement be, 'Yes, yes,' or 'No, no.' Whatever goes beyond these is from the Evil One.

**HYMN 283:** *Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening*

**SERMON THEME:** Truly a Life and Death Situation

1. Disobedience + our sins not forgiven = death      2. Faith in Jesus + his forgiveness of sins = life

**APOSTLES' CREED** – Page 41

OFFERING HYMN 485 Verses 1 & 2: *We Give Thee but Thine Own*" (Please Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Page 124) & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 493: *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*"

BENEDICTION

HYMN 505: *Love Is the Gracious Gift*"

SILENT PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Serving Us Today ~ February 16, 2020**

**Organist:** Marjean Schroeder-Oaks

**Altar Guild:** Rachel Freerking, Kay Kohfeldt & Edie Nieman

**Ushers:** Jeff Reiter, Jacob Reiter, Jessie Reiter & Ruth Reiter

**Counters:** Bev Ware, Beverly Neumann & Kristin Schaick



**A Portable DVD Player Is Now Available** for our shut-ins or anyone that would like to view our Worship Services. Please speak with Pastor if you are interested.

**Ash Wednesday Is February 26 With Communion.** During the Wednesdays of Lent, our sermons will be focused on "*The Son of God Goes Forth to War.*" We will begin our Lenten Fellowship with soup suppers at 5:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is located near the bulletin board for those willing to provide soup, bread, cheese, sausage, desserts, etc. and to assist with serving and clean-up. Thank you!

**Pastor Raymond Cox** was called to his heavenly home on Wednesday, February 12. His Christian funeral will be held today (February 16) at 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1010 Adams Avenue, North Fond du Lac, 54937.

**GriefShare:** Members of Immanuel that have experienced the loss of a loved one are invited to attend. They meet on Mondays at 5:00 p.m.

**Church Council Members** will hold their February meeting on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

**Looking Ahead/Ladies 'Guild:** Saturday, March 21, our ladies will meet to pack cookies for the cookie sale on Sunday, March 22. Any congregational member wishing to donate any of their delicious baked goods would be greatly appreciated. They also will be planning our Easter Breakfast. Join them if you have ideas or would like to be involved. More information will be forthcoming as these events approach.

**2019 Annual Reports** are located near our guest registry for anyone interested in obtaining a copy. Please read through this document and let Pastor or Randy Montgomery know if you have any questions.

**Pathways to Christ Retreat** will be held March 13-15 at Hawthorn Suites & LaSure's Hall. More information can be found on our bulletin board for anyone interested in attending.

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS		
Needed per week		\$3,120.00
Budget Received 02-09-2020		\$1,216.50
Budget Need to date		\$18,720.00
Budget Received to date		\$24,712.50
<b>EPIPHANY</b>		
Tuesday Bible Class		9
GriefShare		12
02-09-2020 Attendance		65

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