

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Epiphany 6

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Greetings in Jesus, our Saving Light of this sin-darkened world! As we continue in these Sundays after the Epiphany, God's word continues to reveal the light of His absolute truth to us. Today's three lessons constitute a strong reminder that God makes Himself and His perfect will known to us in His word of truth. In His authoritative word, God's law reveals our sin; it shows how we have fallen short of perfectly keeping His will and our need for the Savior. The gospel proclaims how God in His unfathomable love solved our sin problem by sending Jesus to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 5:17-18) and die as our sin Substitute.

As faithful Christians, we want to live for God and "let our lights shine" (Matthew 5:16). As grateful Christians, we understand that we cannot remain faithful to God and His will without the antidote of His word in our lives. God's word shows our continual need for the Savior (law), assures God loves and proclaims how He saved us through Jesus (gospel). God's word is the pathway to remain in that truth faith...the law guiding Christians in God-pleasing living.

Our readings for this "Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany" outline the practical application of God's law and gospel in a sharp, crisp manner as God speaks to us as His people.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, **Divine Service "Rite Two."**

Hymns: 199 (1-5), 207, 197, 199 (6)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 30:15-20. Moses underscores the seriousness of the law as he delivers his "Swan Song" and urges the Israelites, "Now choose life in the LORD." This life only comes by the LORD's grace in sending His Savior.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 119a. In this longest of the psalms, the Spirit's directed writer presents the blessings of the righteous in the LORD and the Christian attitude toward hearing and following God's word (*Supplement*).

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:6-13. Spirit-filled preaching proclaims the "secret wisdom of God" revealed in the Scriptures. By this wisdom the people of God – the gifts of the LORD and perceive His truths.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. "Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life." Alleluia. (John 6:68 EHV)

Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37. Using examples drawn from the law (e.g., murder, adultery, oaths), Jesus reveals the depths of the law's demands. Jesus' own mastery over the law is greater than Moses' as He interprets the law with an authoritative "But I tell you...." Jesus' words reveal our need for rescue from the demands of the law.

Sermon: Matthew 5:21-37

Theme - "Jesus' Completed Our Humanly Impossible Mission"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: How does the Law of the LORD God make spiritual neutrality impossible?
- Old Testament: How does Moses underscore the seriousness of the LORD God's law as he speaks to the people?
- Epistle: What is God's "secret wisdom" that only the mature can understand? (Hint: see 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)
- Epistle: Why can't people by nature understand this secret wisdom according to 1 Corinthians 2:13-14?
- Epistle: What is the reason the "rulers of this age" crucified Jesus, the "Lord of glory?"
- Epistle: How do the above answers solidify that God's saved us by grace through faith created by the Holy Spirit?
- Gospel: How does Jesus in this section of His Sermon on the Mount reveal the depth of the law's demands?

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class and Sunday school: 8:00 a.m.

+ Confirmation Class: Monday from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

+ **timeofgrace.org** – a resource for timely, topical subjects answered by pastors from the Wisconsin Synod.

+ **Guests and Visitors** – We are pleased to have you worship with us today. Please sign our guest book before you leave. Our church provides a free daily devotional booklet (*Meditations*). The *Lutheran Sentinel*, a news and informational publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is also available. Please ask for a free copy.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 - See now, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster. 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. 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, 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. 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 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. (EHV™)

1 Corinthians 2:6-13 - 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. (EHV™)

Matthew 5:21-37 – “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. (EHV™)