

Epiphany 6



Today marks the Fifth Birthday of Our Savior Lutheran Church here in Port Charlotte. For the last five years God has seen fit to direct our work and our paths together so that we might provide a faithful witness to our community about the joy we share as we live in faith.

While we are going to have the party later in the month, we are pleased to offer God our thanks and praise for all that He has done. All those things we have seen, and endured, and even all those “near misses” that came so close but we never even knew of the danger. God has been so good to OSLC!

As we celebrate the actual birthday today, we are mindful that our God gives us the framework of working and praying together known as church. God does that because relationships matter. God chooses to make certain that the created order knows about the way of life preferable to Him by laying it out for all to see, hear, and do. God’s word carries with it significant instructions as to how we ought to live, since those relationships matter. The old adage, “It takes two to tango” is significant to our understanding of the importance of those relationships.

First, we cannot be God’s chosen people without God. We need to make certain that God is in the center of all we do, and not other made up deities or other such substitutions. It goes without saying we cannot be God’s people without God. I know it is a simple thing to say, but if one looks around, not many people are catching on to the simplicity.

Second, we cannot be God’s chosen people all by ourselves. We function within communities and God has it on His heart to be at the center of those communities. We work with our neighbor, no matter where they might be, so that God’s justice, mercy, and love might be better shared with humanity. We gather to continue to face the future confident that God has been, is, and will be with us as we journey together. We are blessed by the hand of God guiding our past, present, and future. Happy Birthday, OSLC!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Announcements

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

As we celebrate this Epiphany season, we are reminded of the revelation of Jesus Christ to the entire world through a variety of methods and many people. In our time and place, we forget what Christ has done for us, and at times, we lose our way and pick really terrible alternatives. Recognizing this weakness in our spirit, we pause to offer our confession this day:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake, and by His promise, forgives us all our sin. Therefore on His behalf, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray in His Holy Name, Amen.

HYMN 392 How Firm a Foundation 1,3,5

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): **O God, 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.**

Alleluia. You are the light of the world. A city set upon a hill cannot be hid. Alleluia.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“HE”

Dean Carson, Soloist

THE FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 New Living Translation (NLT)

“Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. For I command you this day to love the Lord your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.

“But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy.

“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

THE SECOND LESSON :1 Corinthians 3:1-9 New Living Translation (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? When one of you says, “I am a follower of Paul,” and another says, “I follow Apollos,” aren't you acting just like people of the world?

After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-37

New Living Translation (NLT)

“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

“So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

“When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

“You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

“You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord. But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

The Gospel of our Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

SERMON

“Relationships Matter!”

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

SERMON HYMN: 417 My Faith Looks Up to Thee 1,2,4

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

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 into hell. 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

HYMN 280 Amazing Grace 1,3,5

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! Please take a moment to turn your Cell Phone or other devices to mute, so they do not go off during the service and become disruptive. We appreciate your help to this regard. And thanks again for being here with us this morning!

IN OUR PRAYERS: We take time during our service to offer petitions for the prayer needs of ourselves, our families, our friends, and the world. Please give those requests to Pastor at the beginning portion of the service so they can be included in our prayers during worship today.

OUR BIBLE STUDY ON ROMANS will be held on Wednesday, February 15 , 2017, at 10:00 AM. Please take the time to join us as we dig further into the Word of God with the continuation of our study.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH! We begin a few weeks of celebrating our fifth birthday celebration with our worship this morning. We will follow up with a special dinner on February 26th after worship. In the meantime, we'll hear some announcements this morning as we get the celebration started! Please plan to be with us as we celebrate this important milestone!

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO BE WITH US THIS LENTEN SEASON! Traditionally a season of preparation and reflection, we hope to have a new look on the traditions of Lent as we celebrate the work that Jesus accomplished on the cross. More information will be available as we get closer to Ash Wednesday, March 1, when we begin together with a special service here at the Church. It might be the best time to bring someone with you and form a new church relationship together!

Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC

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Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study: Times as announced

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