



Our Savior Lutheran Church Jan. 29, 2023 Page 2
14344 Jamison Way, (941) 249-5108

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! As a kindness to one another, *please place your cell phones on mute* for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

IN OUR PRAYERS: Please use a prayer request card if you have a specific prayer request this morning. It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise give them to the ushers at the time the offering is collected.

THE MEANING OF THE TWO PICTURES IN THE BULLETIN: The two pictures at the top of the bulletin are the church's logo and the LCMC logo. The church's logo is the descent of the Holy Spirit into 'Our Savior' at the time of His Baptism.

POT LUCK: Today is our combined Pot Luck with ElJobean Baptist Church. If you forgot to bring a dish to share – don't worry – there will be a lot of food today to share. Join us!

We Serve Today:

Reader: Peggie Sue Dygert

Offering: *Jeff Cisco, David Colburn*

Communion: *Rev. Donald Frances, Rev. Sarah Stern*

Greeter: *Jeff Cisco*

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SERVICE OF THE WORD: FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME: *Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements*

Pastor: We gather in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

People: **AMEN**

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER - *congregational responses in BOLD*

Pastor: Lord, we approach Your altar with love for You and our appreciation for the price You paid for us on the cross. We realize the difficulties that we face, and we confess the poor job we have done with our response to Your sacrifice. For that, Dear Lord, we make our confession to You this day.

1 John 1:8-9

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: As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus on His cross, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by the authority of Jesus Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Alleluia and Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN: Page 1 – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY – Verses 1,2 & 4.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH PAGE 128 – THE NICENE CREED -

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; [God of God], Light of Light, very God of very God;

begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. "Who, for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

"And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): P. Let us pray:

Grant, merciful Lord, to us, Your faithful people, pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve You with a quiet mind, Alleluia.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which God has called us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Alleluia and Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

MICAH 6:1-8 – (NKJV) (congregation in bold)

God Pleads with Israel

"Hear now what the Lord says: "Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice,

Hear, O you mountains, the Lord's complaint, And you strong foundations of the earth; For the Lord has a complaint against His people, And He will contend with Israel

O My people, what Have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me.

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, From Acacia Grove to Gilgal, that you may know the righteousness of the Lord.

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, To love mercy, And walk humbly with your God?

PSALM: Psalm 15 (NKJV) (Recited whole verse by whole verse -**Congregation in Bold**)

The Character of Those Who May Dwell With the Lord

Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; he who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change. He who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things shall never be moved.

EPISTLE LESSON: I Cor. 1:18-31 (NKJV)

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God – Glory Only in the Lord!

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, **but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, **it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.**

For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom: **but we preach Christ crucified,** to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, **but to those who are called both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is

stronger than men.

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised,

God has chosen, and the things which are not to bring to nothing the things that are, **That no flesh should glory in His presence.**

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption – that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 5:1-12 - (please rise)

Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes

“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven,

Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted,

Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.”

GOSPEL HYMN – PAGE 541 – SATISFIED – Verses 1, 3 & 4.

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

SERMON: Christ the Power and Wisdom of God - **Rev. Steve Dygert, + STS**

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 1:2*

C: Amen

SERMON HYMN: 18 Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise

OFFERING

Rite of Friendship:

P. The Peace of the Lord Be With You Always.

C. **And Also With You.**

P. We now have the opportunity to share back with the Lord a little of the bounty He has shared with us.

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As the offering is brought forward, we will sing the Doxology.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise
Him all creatures here below; praise
Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

Doxology, written in England for Protestant Churches in 1674.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us-our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE PRAYERS: PAGE 129 Let us Pray For:

(Prayer Response) Lord in your Mercy: **You Hear our prayers.**

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and forever. Amen**

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE:

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: *Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1st Corinthians 11:23-25*

On the night He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said; "Take and eat; this is My body, given for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to the them saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the new testament in My blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of of Me."

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. *1st Corinthians 11:26*

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!
THE DISTRIBUTION, THE COMMUNION BLESSING**

SENDING HYMN: Page 374 - HE LEADETH ME – Verses 1, 3 & 4.

THE AARONIC BENEDICTION: Numbers 6: 24-26

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH:

**Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony**

**Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me!!**

THE DISMISSAL P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord! C. Thanks be to God!!

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Pastor Steve Dygert
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Sermon archive – oslc-lcmc.com

Immortal, invisible, God only wise from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.**

**Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824–1908), 1867
MIDI: St. Denio (Welsh, 1839)
Meter: 11 11 11 11**

Grace mercy and peace to you from God our father and our lord and savior Jesus Christ. Amen

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

Wisdom and power important concepts, but what do they actually mean?

Biblical meaning of wisdom;

Wisdom begins and ends with the fear of the Lord. It isn't a fear of being struck by lightning or fear of being struck dead but it's a deep, abiding, holy reverence and respect for the Lord and for His Word, the Bible.

In the Small Catechism in the explanations Luther always starts with the phrase 'we should fear and love God.'

So does fear mean are we to be afraid in this usage? No

As the Bible Dictionary states in defining fear:

It isn't a fear of being struck by lightning or fear of being struck dead but it's a deep, abiding, holy reverence and respect for the Lord and for His Word, the Bible.

So according to this statement wisdom begins with the Bible.

Let's continue with the definition of wisdom.

The Book of Proverbs has more to say about wisdom than any other book in the Bible. For example in Proverbs 9:10 Solomon, who was the wisest man on earth, at least until Christ came, said

that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight."

Where there is fear, there tends to be obedience and God has said He prefers obedience over sacrifice (1 Sam 15:22; Hosea 6:6).

But is obedience in this case following a rule – the law – or is it following the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Can obedience be a loving act or is it based in Law?

It is our free will that is in questions – do we do things because we have to – or do we do them because we want to do so?

Many Christian denominations are based in the law – so their understanding of faith is based on following a rule – not Jesus – and I find this sad. So what helps us to make the decision in free will? Let's continue the explanation of Wisdom to find the answer.

Sometimes obedience comes before understanding and when someone obeys what they know to be true, understanding usually follows. Wisdom begins with reverence for God and a fear for Him and His Word. That's where wisdom begins. Where there is no fear of the Lord, there can never be any true wisdom. It's just not possible.

Many of you know I worked closely with the Mormon Church in my past – which is a story for another time and place.

But there is one device that the parents teach their children I like. When children reach middle school age their parents give them a ring that has three letter on the ring CTR – which is a reminder to choose the right. When faced with a

choice do what you know will be pleasing to God – I wish all of our own children learned this way of thinking – don't you?

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.

No matter what our status is in life – both important or unimportant is not important unless we live it in God – both his law and more importantly his gospel.

We are on earth only on a temporary basis – but we are eternal in God. If we dedicate ourselves to the gospel of the Lord – we are at the beginning of Wisdom – and as our hymn states -

He is immortal, invisible, God is the wisdom we strive to attain

Let us Pray:

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee. Amen

And may this wisdom of God keep our hearts and minds upon the goal – the goal of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Amen
