

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

February 12, 2023 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

69 Mill Street • Athens, OH • (740) 593-3144

info@clcathens.org • www.clcathens.org

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.

WELCOME ***(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)***

Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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.**

GATHERING SONG

O God of Mercy, God of Light (ELW 714)



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If 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. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹I 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, ²⁰loving 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-37

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But 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. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come 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. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If 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. ³⁰And 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.

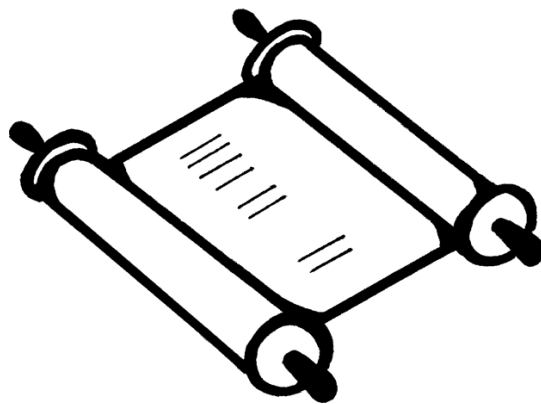
³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“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.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let 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.

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY *Take My Life, That I May Be (PATMOS) (ELW 685)*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Take My Life, That I May Be'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed between the staves. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the next four lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with chords and single notes.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, we gather as your people this morning, seeking your presence, your comfort and your love.

In this Black History Month, let us give thanks for the gifts, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African-descent neighbors and siblings in Christ — we stand together to glorify God as partners in the gospel, doing God’s work in the world together. We ask God to guide our church in its pursuit of racial justice, socioeconomic equity, racial reconciliation and an end to hatred and mistrust.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world, that their cries for daily bread may inspire works of compassion and mercy among those to whom much has been given.

And let us remember in prayer those who have suffered tragedy, trauma or loss from recent winter storms, flooding and earthquakes. Pray that God will bring them hope and

encouragement throughout their grieving, recovery and adjustment to the changes in their communities.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for schools and centers of learning throughout the world, for those who lack access to basic education, and for the light of knowledge to blossom and shine in the lives of all God's people.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for people who suffer chronic illness and pain that impacts their daily lives, activities and employment; pray that they might receive affordable health care and effective treatment. And we pray that the doctors and scientists will find a cure for HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and Covid and other diseases that disrupt families, increase poverty and cause so much suffering.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for an end to the waste and desecration of God's creation, and for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people, and for communities and nations to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all nations and people who already enjoy the abundance of creation and the blessings of prosperity, that their hearts may be lifted to the needs of the poor and afflicted, and partnerships between rich and poor, for the reconciliation of the world may flourish and grow.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have died and for comfort for those who grieve for them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord God, hear the prayers of your church. Grant that what we celebrate with faith, we may put into practice in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, **AMEN.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THRIVE! MOMENT *(Today the Children will be collecting Thrive! pledge cards in baskets during the offering. We ask that everyone please return a pledge card even if the amount pledged is zero.)*

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN

Rich in Blessings

1. Man - y years of faith - ful wor - ship, Rich in bless - ings from a - bove,
2. Here in A - thens our good ci - ty, Here we keep our wit - ness clear,
3. Hear our pipes and hear our voic - es As we con - tem - plate our place,
4. True to Lu - ther and Mel - anch - thon, Set for what the fu - ture brings,

5
Man - y years of deep re - flec - tion On the Gos - pel's Word of Love.
Here in Ap - pal a - chian foot - hills We preach Je - sus with - out fear.
Lis - ten while we tune our hearts to hear God's words of love and grace.
Hap - py in our past tra - di - tions, O - pen to our world's new things,

9
In our lives of will - ing ser - vice, Thanks to God who guides our way.
U - ni - ver - si - ty and coun - ty, This our par - ish, this our role.
Praise to God who, rich in bless - ings, Gives this world its glo - rious glow.
On - ward, up - ward, in - ward, out - ward, Je - sus guide us in our ways.

13
Through the tur - moil, times of strug - gle, Bring - ing us to joy to - day.
Our vo - ca - tion, rich in bless - ings, To reach out to one and all.
Peace and mer - cy, hope and glad - ness, Stay with us as on we go.
Rich in bless - ings, peace, and friend - ship, Make our lives true hymns of praise.

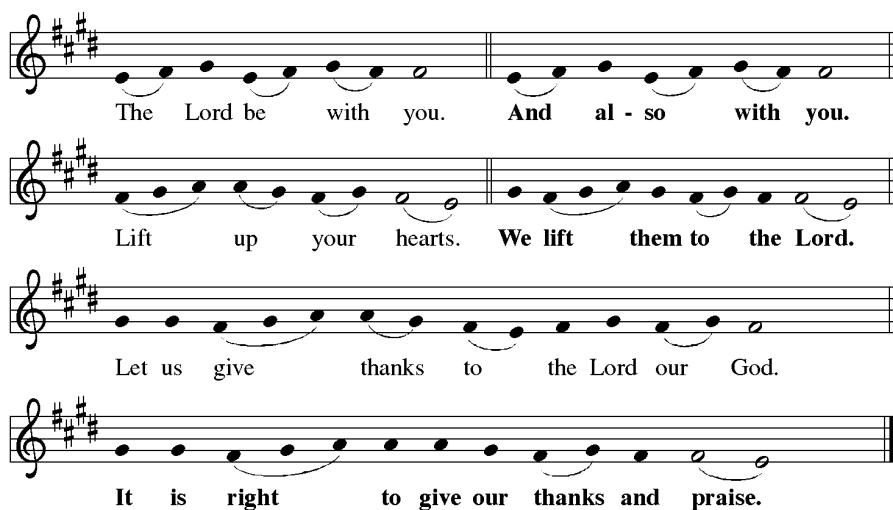
Text: Geoge Weckman, 2019
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

Hymn To Joy
8787 D

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE



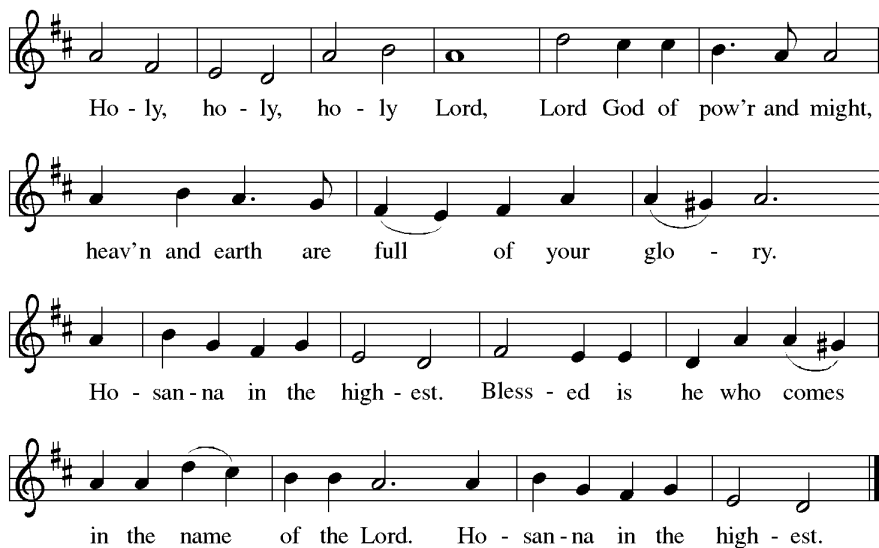
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God:

 you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness

 and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore,

 his preaching and healing,

 his dying and rising,

 and his promise to come again,

 we await that day when all the universe

 will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,

 that, refreshed with this heavenly food,

 we may be light for the world,

 revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

 in your holy Church,

 both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

AGNUS DEI (ELW p. 154)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (ELW 678)



- 1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Asst/Lector: Wanda Weinberg; Time with Children: Jane Unger; Livestream: Sam Hanson; Greeter: Tammy Thompson; Ushers: Karl Runser, Rod Sauer; Acolyte: Melody; Children's Church: Kay Cleland*