



But *Seek* ye first the kingdom of
GOD
and his righteousness; and all
these things shall be added
unto you.

- Matthew 6:33

Luther Memorial Church and School

An Affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

134 21st Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Church Office: (920) 922-7421

www.Fdllutheran.com

9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class

10:00am Worship Service

Pastor Neal Radichel
Teacher Amy Osborne

Principal Dave Bernthal
Teacher Anita Meyer

February 27, 2011

Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

Today's Focus:

“Consider the birds of the air and the flowers of the field... Oh you of little faith.”

Pre-service meditation: God has many characteristics, but certainly, one of the most important for us is His gracious love. Instead of being concerned only with Himself, He gives of Himself freely for the benefit of His creation. Instead of demanding that we live up to His standards before we receive His blessing, He exalts us through His forgiving love and makes us worthy. This gracious love of God is expressed in Jesus Who came to offer Himself in sacrifice to pay for our sins. How do I express my return of love to Him?

Today's Hymns:

39 ~ 126: 1,4,5 ~ 789 ~ 447: 3,4

Bells – Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: #39 [Red hymnal]

THE INVOCATION

We invoke (“call upon”) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PASTOR: We begin our worship service in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

CONGREGATION: Lead us, Lord God, by Your Holy Word and reveal to us the glory of Jesus Christ our Savior! Amen.

OUR CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF OUR SINS

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we sin daily and need His forgiveness.

PASTOR: Beloved in the Lord! Just as the star led the wise men to the Savior, the Scriptures lead us to the revelation of the Messiah, God's Anointed sacrificial Lamb. During this season God directs our attention to the Epiphany of the God-man Jesus Christ, and to a heart that confesses our sins to God, our Heavenly Father. As He has sent His Son to die for us, we come today asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us all our sins. Our help is in the name of the LORD... the LORD our Righteousness!

CONGREGATION SINGS: *[Red hymnal #23]*

**Lord, when you look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above –
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood,
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy, Warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us!
For You teach us,
God's own love through You has reached us.**

PASTOR: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, during this season of Christ's Epiphany, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and we have sinned against You by our thoughts, words, and deeds. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and asking Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ:

CONGREGATION: Dearest Jesus, in every word and deed You have shown Yourself, to be the true Light that has come into this world. You desire to light the way to life eternal for all people. We were without God, strangers outside of Your Kingdom; sinners, who deserve only Your wrath and eternal punishment. Your Law has shown us our sin. We come to You alone with sorrowful hearts and confess all our sins and iniquities.

But You oh Lord, have declared us Your people – fellow citizens and saints of God's household. You have caused Your glory to shine upon us. You have opened our eyes to the forgiveness found in Christ alone. You have removed the blindness from our hearts. For this we praise you again today with thankful voices, and each new day sing of Your grace and goodness as long as we have our breath. Let us remain blessed citizens of Your kingdom of joy and honor in heaven, as heirs of Your eternal glory. As Your life and death has given us this eternal glory, let our lives give Your name glory forever and ever!

Amen.

PASTOR: Upon this confession of your sins, by the promise and authority of Christ our Savior, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Isaiah 49:13-18

CONGREGATION SINGS: [Red hymnal, p.21] **Glory be to You, O Lord!**

The Old Testament lesson shows how God comforts His suffering people with the assurance that He has not forgotten them or abandoned them. He has wonderful things in store for them!

Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, And will have mercy on His afflicted. 14 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me." 15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. 16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me. 17 Your sons shall make haste; Your destroyers and those who laid you waste Shall go away from you. 18 Lift up your eyes, look around and see; All these gather together and come to you. As I live," says the LORD, "You shall surely clothe yourselves with them all as an ornament, And bind them on you as a bride does.

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 62

CONGRE. SINGS: [Red hymnal, p.20] **Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

- P:** Truly my soul silently waits for God;
C: From Him comes my salvation.
P: He only is my rock and my salvation;
C: He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.
P: How long will you attack a man?
C: You shall be slain, all of you, like a leaning wall and a tottering fence.
P: They only consult to cast him down from his high position;
C: They delight in lies; They bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.
P: My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.
C: He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.
P: In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

- C: Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.**
- P:** Surely men of low degree are a vapor; Men of high degree are a lie;
- C: If they are weighed on the scales, they are altogether lighter than vapor.**
- P:** Do not trust in oppression, nor vainly hope in robbery;
- C: If riches increase, do not set your heart on them.**
- P:** God has spoken once, twice I have heard this:
- C: That power belongs to God.**
- P:** Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy;
- C: For You render to each one according to his work.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – 1 Corinthians 4:1-13

CONGREGATION SINGS: [Red hymnal, p.21] **Praise be to You, O Christ!**

In the New Testament Lesson, Paul encourages humility, warning against boasting or arrogance. The Apostles are examples of God at work through those willing to humbly serve Him by imitating His lowliness and forgiveness.

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other. 7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 8 You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us -- and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you! 9 For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! 11 To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. 12 And we

labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; 13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring [or scum] of all things until now.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH – The Apostles Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Epiphany Hymn: #126: 1,4,5 [Red Hymnal]

CHILDREN'S SERMON

But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'" ~Matthew 19:14

CHILDREN'S HYMN ~ "With Joy!"

SERMON

And Jesus said, "...Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" ~Luke 11:28

"If God is your Father... than worry is silly."

Matthew 6:24-34 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

27 "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?"

28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

29 "and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

1. **Worry makes us near-sighted.**

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2. **Worry makes us self-reliant.**

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3. **Worry makes us look foolish.**

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THE OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

CONGREGATION SINGS [Red hymnal, pg. 22]:

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Hymn: #789 [Tan Worship Supplement]

OUR OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS TO THE LORD ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

SPECIAL PRAYERS - EPIPHANY GENERAL PRAYER - LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

CONGREGATION SINGS: Amen, Amen, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #447: 3,4 [Red Hymnal]

~ Silent Prayer ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to all! Guests, please sign our guest book in entryway and we hope you will come and join us again! Visitors and members: feel free to speak with the Pastor after the service, or call: (920) 922-7421

"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today: Immediately following service – Adult Choir! (For Lent) Education/School Committee (15 mins after service)

MON: 5:30pm Chimes Choir

6:30pm Discussion Group: *Already Gone* – Ken Ham

TUES: 7pm Ladies meeting

WED: 8pm Sunday School Teachers Meeting (bring notes)

THURS: 9am Women's Bible Study of Acts (in the office room)

SUN: 10am Worship with Communion

3pm Ski Trip outing to Sunburst (meet at church)

TV CHURCH – Today's Service replayed on Cable TV Channel 21

Tuesday at noon, Wednesday at 4:00 pm

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT - April 8, 9, 10, 2011 at Days' Inn in Lacrosse, WI. Many good speakers and mini sessions have been arranged. Come and join the fun and learning! For more information see brochure on entryway table. **NOTE: Deadline for registration for the Retreat is March 1.** Can late-register up to April 1, with a late fee.

SKI TRIP OUTING! – NEXT Sunday, March 6th we have invited area CLC congregations to join us for a trip to Sunburst Ski Area in Kewaskum, WI. Tentatively, we will try to leave church around 3pm. With 15+ people we qualify for a group rate. If interested in coming along even just to enjoy the company, talk to Pastor or Craig Youngerberg.

THIS SUNDAY Usher Team 1 = Boelk, Kern, Scheberl, Stubbs, Yongerberg

Pianist: Meyer

NEXT SUNDAY Usher Team 2 = Seibel, Boelk, Jacobs, Meilke, Gescheidle

Organist: Fillmore (Communion)