

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

THE BIBLE – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

GOD – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

MAN – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

SIN – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

REDEMPTION – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

FAITH – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

THE CHURCH – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

SACRAMENTS – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

RESURRECTION – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 17, 2019

INTROIT

Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5; Antiphon: Psalm 119:7

*I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your just and righteous decrees.
Blessèd are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your just and righteous decrees.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *O Lord,
Graciously hear the prayers of Your people
that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin
may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness
to the glory of Your name;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever*

C *♪[Amen]♪*

GRADUAL

Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

*Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *Lord, in Your mercy,* **C** **hear our prayer.**

Jeremiah 17:5-8 (ESV)

⁵ Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶ He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

1 Corinthians 15:(1-11) 12-20 (ESV)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,

² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle,

because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Luke 6:17-26 (ESV)

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea

and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon,

¹⁸ who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.

¹⁹ And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²² "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!

²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶ "Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Jeremiah 17:5–8

1 Corinthians 15:(1–11) 12–20

Luke 6:17–26

Christians Live by Faith in Christ and Rejoice in the Promise of His Resurrection

"*Cursed is the man who trusts in man,*" for all the strength of his flesh is like the grass that fades away (Jer. 17:5). The one who turns away from the Lord may have food and money and laugh for now, but he "*shall mourn and weep*" in the judgment (Luke 6:24–25). But "*the man who trusts in the LORD*" is blessed with all that he needs, "*like a tree planted by water.*" When heat comes, he survives (Jer. 17:7–8). For the Lord has come in the flesh to heal the people of all their diseases, to cleanse their spirits with forgiveness, and to preach the Gospel of the kingdom of God to the poor (Luke 6:18–20). As all of this is by way of His cross, it is solely by faith in the promise of His resurrection that Christians "*rejoice*" and "*leap for joy*" (Luke 6:21–23). "*If Christ has not been raised,*" our faith is in vain and we are most to be pitied (1 Cor. 15:14–19). But, in fact, just as "*Christ died for our sins,*" so has He also "*been raised from the dead*" (1 Cor. 15:3, 20).

Next Week's Readings from God's Word:

February 20: The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany (Series C):

Genesis 45:3-15, 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42, Luke 6:27-38