

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Epiphany 6 - February 13, 2022

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #448 - "In You, O Lord, I Put My Trust"

**In you, O Lord, I put my trust -
Leave me not helpless in the dust;
Let me not be confounded.
My faith, O Lord, must in your Word
Be always firmly grounded.**

**Oh, listen, Lord, most graciously,
And hear my cry, my prayer, my plea;
Make haste for my protection,
For woes and fear surround me here.
Help me in my affliction.**

**You are my strength, my shield, my rock,
My fortress that withstands each shock,
My help, my life, my tower,
My battle sword, Almighty Lord -
What can resist your power?**

**With you, O Lord, I cast my lot;
O faithful God, forsake me not,
To you my soul commending.
Lord, be my stay, and lead the way
Now and when life is ending.**

**All honor, praise, and majesty
To Father, Son, and Spirit be,
Our God forever glorious,
In whose rich grace we run our race
Till we depart victorious.**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 17:5-8

This is what the Lord says. Cursed is anyone who trusts in mankind, who seeks his strength from human flesh, and who turns his heart away from the Lord. He will be like a juniper bush in the wasteland. He will not see good things when they come. He lives in a dry place in the wilderness, in a salty land where no one lives. But blessed is anyone who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by water. It sends out its roots to the stream. It does not fear the heat when it comes. Its leaves will remain green. It is not concerned about a time of drought. It does not stop producing fruit. (EHV)

Psalm 1

Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

**Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ‘wicked
Or stand in the way of ‘sinners.**

**But his delight is in the law ‘of the LORD,
And on his law he meditates ‘day and night.**

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yield its fruit in ‘season
And whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does ‘prosper.**

Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the ‘judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the ‘righteous.**

**For the LORD watches over the way of the ‘righteous,
But the way of the wicked will ‘perish.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,
As it was in the be’gining,
Is now, and will be forever. ‘Amen.**

Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. And he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me. That is why I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then am I strong. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

He went down with them and stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples and a large number of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, as well as from the coastal area of Tyre and Sidon. These people came to listen to him and to be healed of their diseases. Those who were troubled by unclean spirits were also cured. The whole crowd kept trying to touch him, because power was going out from him and healing them all. He lifted up his eyes to his disciples and said: Blessed are you who are poor, because yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, because you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, because you will laugh. Blessed are you whenever people hate you, and whenever they exclude and insult you and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man. “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy because of this: Your reward is great in heaven! The fact is, their fathers constantly did the same things to the

prophets.” But woe to you who are rich, because you are receiving your comfort now. Woe to you who are well fed now, because you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, because you will be mourning and weeping. Woe to you when all people speak well of you, because that is how their fathers constantly treated the false prophets. (EHV)

The Apostles’ Creed:

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.

Hymn #690 - “*Blest Are They*”

**Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God!
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they who seek peace, they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.**

**Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are you who suffer hate all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**The Sermon: Luke 6:17-26
 “Where Is Your Joy?”**

I'd like to begin today by telling you a story about two men. The **first** man is driving home from work in a 2022 **Corvette** Convertible. Earlier that day he learned that he had received a big job **promotion**, and along **with** it, a sizable salary **increase**. He's driving to his large house in the **suburbs**, where he lives with his **wife**, his two **children**, and his faithful dog, **Scout**. The **second** man is driving home in a 15-year old Dodge **minivan**. His wife had passed away very **unexpectedly** just a few days earlier. Now he's returning from his wife's **funeral** to his 2-bedroom **rambler** in town, where he now lives all **alone**. So, here's a **question** for you. Which of these two men do you think is **happier**? ... **Happiness** or **joy** is the basis for our sermon thoughts this morning, and specifically, we're going to look at the question: **Where Is Your Joy?** The words of Jesus to His disciples in today's text will show us where we, as Christians, can find **real** and **lasting** joy.

Today's sermon text comes shortly after **last** week's sermon text, where Jesus called the first **four** of His **full-time** disciples - Peter, Andrew, James and John. And today we hear about **another** amazing event which these men were privileged to witness when they were with Jesus. We read, "*(Jesus) went down with them and stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples and a large number of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, as well as from the coastal area of Tyre and Sidon. These people came to **listen** to him and to be **healed** of their diseases. Those who were troubled by **unclean spirits** were **also** cured. The whole crowd kept trying to **touch** him, because **power** was going out from him and **healing** them all.*" What a great experience for these disciples. They were able to witness the great **need** which people had for **Jesus**, and the miraculous way in which He took **care** of their needs. At this point in time they were probably thinking that being with Jesus would **always** involve **happy events** - seeing Jesus **heal** people of their diseases, and then seeing them **praising** God out of **gratitude**.

However, it didn't take very long after these miraculous healings took place, before Jesus gave His disciples a more **realistic** picture of what it would actually **mean** for them to follow Him, and He did it by telling them about **blessings** and **woes**. The **blessings** would involve **joy** and **happiness**, while the **woes** would involve **pain** and **sorrow**. In a sense Jesus was telling His disciples, which people would find **joy**, and which ones would find **pain**. His words are quite the **opposite** of what many people would **think**.

First let's take a look at the **woes** which Jesus spoke about. He said, "*Woe to you who are **rich**, because you are receiving your comfort **now**. Woe to you who are **well fed** now, because you will be **hungry**. Woe to you who **laugh** now, because you will be **mourning** and **weeping**. Woe to you when all people speak **well** of you, because that is how their fathers constantly treated the **false prophets**.*" Jesus spoke **warnings** or **woes** to those who were **rich** and **well fed**, to those who **laughed** and were **well-spoken of**. At first, that seems **strange** to us. But we need to understand the **context** of Jesus' words. Jesus was speaking about those who looked to wealth for their **fulfillment** in life. He was speaking about those who thought that being **well-fed** was living the **good** life. When He speaks about those who are **well-spoken of** He means those who are highly esteemed in this **world**, with all of its **misplaced** priorities, and rampant **unbelief**. In summary, Jesus speaks woe to those whose main focus of life is the **here** and **now** - those who are looking for happiness in the **things** and **people** of **this** world. Jesus was speaking **woes** to them, because He knew that these people were headed for **pain** and **sorrow** if their joy was only found in the **here** and **now**.

As **followers** of Jesus, **we** know that what He says is the **truth**. We know that **things** of this world, and the **praise** of this world will **not** bring us true and lasting **happiness**. And yet, all too often, we find ourselves thinking and acting just the **opposite**. It's so easy to fall into the trap of looking for **joy** in **material** things. It's hard not to **daydream** about all the nice things we could **have** and **do** if we just had a little more **money**. Unfortunately when we **think** that way, it doesn't take very long before we actually end up thinking that we **need** all those things in order to be truly **happy**.

It's **also** just as much of a **temptation** to try to find our joy in the **praise** of this world. Which of these things would you say is **easier** - to **stand up** for the truth of God's Word in the face of **scorn** and **opposition**, or to **give in** to the philosophies of this **world**, and be accepted and **praised** for your **understanding** and **tolerance**? It's good for us to hear the **warnings** of Jesus in our text, and to

know that if our joy is all wrapped up in the **things** and the **people** of **this** world, then we're only going to wind up with **pain** and **sorrow** in the end.

So, **Where Is Your Joy?** Listen to the words of our **Savior**. Jesus said, *"Blessed are you who are **poor**, because yours is the kingdom of **God**. Blessed are you who **hunger** now, because you will be **satisfied**. Blessed are you who **weep** now, because you will **laugh**. Blessed are you whenever people **hate** you, and whenever they **exclude** and **insult** you and reject your name as **evil** because of the Son of Man."* Jesus said that those who are **poor** and **hungry** - those who **weep**, and are **hated**, and **excluded**, and **insulted** - they are the people who are **blessed** or **happy**. But that doesn't really sound **right**, **does** it? How can that really be **true**? Well, Jesus went on to say, *"Rejoice in that day and leap for **joy** because of **this**: Your reward is great in **heaven!**"* These people can have **joy** because they **aren't** focused on the **things** of this world, or the **praise** of this world. They know that **true** joy can only be found in a **heavenly** reward - a reward which has been **given** to them out of God's boundless **grace**. That's why they can have **joy** even when they're going through circumstances which many **others** would see as **hopeless**. They have **joy** because they know they have a loving **Father** - a Father who will **take care** of them in **this** life, and who **one day** will take care of them **forever** in heaven.

This is the same joy which **we** have, because of the **Gospel**. In the Gospel, Jesus gives us **hope**. He allows us to see that even in the most **severe** circumstances on this earth, we have reason to **smile** and be **happy**, because we have the **forgiveness of sins**, and the promise of **eternal life**. Think about it. What's better **news**: hearing that you won the **lottery**, or hearing that your **sins** have been **forgiven**. If we're looking at things from the proper **perspective**, we're going to realize that there's no **better** news than the announcement of God's **forgiveness**. That's where **true** joy is found. It doesn't really **matter** if we have **millions** of dollars in the bank, or very **few**. It doesn't really **matter** what other people **think** about us. All that really **matters** is what **God** has given us, and what **He** thinks about us. We know that when God the Father sees **us**, He sees the perfection of His **Son**, Jesus - and that brings us true **joy** no matter what **else** happens - even if we're **poor** and **hungry**, or **hated** and **persecuted**.

Of course, that **doesn't** mean that we **have** to be poor to be **happy**, or that we **have** to be starving to find **joy**. It simply means that we have a proper **understanding** of what **joy** really **is**, where it really **comes from** - the Word of **God**. When we rely on God's Word **alone** for our joy, we will **never** be

disappointed, because we know that we have a **Savior in Jesus** - and we know that **Jesus will never** let us down.

In conclusion, I'd like to go back to the two men I spoke about at the **beginning** of today's sermon. As Paul Harvey used to say: here's the **rest** of the story. The man driving that new **Corvette** was really **happy** - for a **while**. He **loved** his car, and all of his neighbors were very **impressed**. But his joy **faded** when the woman across the street from him bought a new **Porsche**. He was also very **relieved** that he had finally received that big **promotion**. Unfortunately, in order to **get** it, he had to put in so much of his **time** and **effort**, that he frequently neglected his **wife** and **family**, and his marriage was close to ending in **divorce**. Maybe he wasn't so **happy** after all.

The **second** man, who was driving home from his wife's **funeral**, was **mourning** his **loss**, but he was also **comforted** - knowing that his wife was now at home with the LORD in **heaven**, and that in God's good time, he would see her **again**. It's true, his minivan had a lot of **miles** on it, but he really didn't **mind** that, because it also held a lot of wonderful **memories** of the trips which he and his wife had taken **together**. Even with so many things seemingly going **against** him, he still had **joy**, because he was **focused** on the **right** things. It's my prayer that we will **all** focus our attention on the joy which **Jesus** brings into our life. The more we see and appreciate the **eternal** blessings **He** has given us out of His **love**, the more we realize we don't need **anything** else. Amen.

Prayers:

O gracious God and heavenly Father, how **blessed** we are, that we who were conceived and born in **sin**, and who by our sins were Your **enemies**, and objects of Your **wrath**; can now be called Your **children** through **faith** in Christ. In no way do we **deserve** this great privilege and honor. We pray that You would work **repentance** every day in our hearts, and when we feel a deep **remorse** for our sins, remind us to trust in Your **mercy**. Dear God, who **loved** this fallen world and sent Your **Son** to save it, **free** us from all guilt, and **spare** us from all punishment for His sake. We also trust You to deliver us from all **temptation**, and to help us through every time of **trouble** and **peril**.

O Lord Jesus Christ, we **thank** You that You **willingly** came here as our Savior, to take away our **sins**, and to make us **right** in God's sight. Help us daily to **crucify** our sinful flesh with its lusts and affections, that we might live for **You**.

Grant us a **steadfast** faith, lest we **lose** the redemption You purchased for us by Your own blood.

O precious Spirit of God, continually turn us **away** from the desires of our sinful flesh, and keep us spiritually **alive**. Make us truly **devoted** to Your Word and Sacrament, and **through** them, **strengthen** our faith. Amen.

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.
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.**

Hymn #443 - *"Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing"*

**Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing;
A cheerful trust maintain,
For God, the source of ev'rything,
Your treasure shall remain.**

**Why spend the day in blank despair,
In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care;
He makes your burdens light.**

**Did not his love and truth and pow'r
Guard ev'ry childhood day?
And did he not in threat'ning hour
Turn dreaded ills away?**

**He always will with patience chide;
His rod falls gently down,**

**And all your sins he casts aside
In ocean depths to drown.**

**His wisdom never plans in vain
Nor falters nor mistakes;
All that his counsels did ordain
A happy ending makes.**

**Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
And trust his guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand
Here and in heav'n above.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. 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.

The Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #803 - "Day by Day"

**Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
Where at last I'll find eternal rest.**

**Day by day, I know you will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.**

**I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
Till in glory I behold your face.**

**Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
When my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.**