

February 15-16, 2025

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

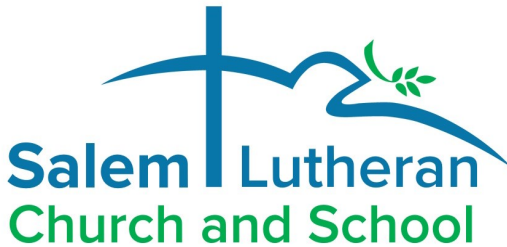


EPIPHANY

moments

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Blessings are Cursed; Curses are Blessed



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Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Epiphany Moments:

Blessings are Cursed, Curses are Blessed

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Blessed Holy Spirit, I praise you today for the change you work in my heart in faith. Bless me to see your grace and live by your leading. Speak to me through your Word that I might walk in light. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: "This is good. That is bad." We think we know what's best for us but our thoughts are often clouded by sin. As Jesus gathered followers, he taught them that his kingdom runs exactly opposite to the principles and priorities of the world. Therefore, much that we think is good is bad, and vice-versa.

Today's epiphany moment allows us to see blessings and curses with clear eyes of faith. Things like success and wealth and health can lead us away from our God, becoming not blessings but curses for our eternal welfare. But there are hidden blessings in what we would normally consider curses: times of suffering, failure, and loss. These force us to put our trust in God and find peace in him. The reality is that worldly blessings can be cursed and worldly curses can be for our blessing.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: "Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing himself as the divine Son of God come to earth in humility to save sinners. In this season we are reminded that there is more to Jesus than what we see on the surface. A review of Jesus' life provides an abundance of epiphany moments where God reveals our Savior to us, and reveals our place in his plan as well.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano/Organ: Abigail Ibisch Guitar: Al Sehloff

Vocalists: Abigail Ibisch, Renee Nair, Carolyn Forster

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

CW 918 sts. 1-2, 4



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; our hearts in
2 Un - seal our lips to sing your praise; our souls to
4 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



true de - vo - tion bow. Your Spir - it send with
you in wor - ship raise. Make strong our faith; in -
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



grace di - vine, and let your truth with - in us shine.
crease our light that we may know your name a - right
Trin - i - ty, be praise through-out e - ter - ni - ty!

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:8-9)

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father,**

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn: My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness

CW 626

Vocalist will sing the first verse. Congregation is invited to join in the remaining verses.



1 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who bore my
 2 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who walks be -
 3 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who reigns a -



pain, who plumbed the depths of my dis - grace and
 side, who floods my weak - ness - es with strength and
 above, whose wis - dom is my per - fect peace, whose



gave me life a - gain, who crushed my curse of sin - ful -
 caus-es fears to fly, whose ev - 'ry prom - ise is e -
 ev - 'ry thought is love. For ev - 'ry day I have on



ness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of
 nough for ev - 'ry step I take, sus - tain - ing me with
 earth is giv - en by the King. So I will give my



right - eous - ness with pow'r up - on my heart.
 arms of love and crown - ing me with grace.
 life, my all, to love and fol - low him.

* _____

* This phrase repeats at the end of st. 3.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God of power and might, you know that we live in the midst of many great dangers, and in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Give us strength and protection to support us in all peril, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

A blessed life is not connected to outward circumstances like health or wealth. Rather, the one who is blessed is the one who has been given the gift of faith and trust in the LORD.

⁵This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;
they will not see prosperity when it comes.

They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

Paul had some infirmity he initially viewed as a weakness. He came to see it as a blessing as it forced him to rely on God's strength.

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 121:8

Refrain

Al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone

The LORD will watch over your coming and go - ing

both now and for - ev - er - more.

In one of his most famous sermons Jesus teaches that the good things we seek are found in places we would least expect.

¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: Day by Day

CW 803



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will



send me draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
guide me o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the
I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row, I will trust in
Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me, you will hold me



bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior, lead me to the home I
your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and
ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to



trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Sermon

Based on 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

"The weaker you feel, the stronger you are"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

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.

Be seated.

Offering



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



(Sunday) Handbell Anthem

Joyance
Ron Mallory

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: 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: I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

CW 816 sts. 1-4



1 I am trust - ing you, Lord Je - sus, trust - ing on - ly you;
2 I am trust - ing you for par - don; at your feet I bow,
3 I am trust - ing you for cleans - ing in the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust - ing you to guide me; you a - lone shall lead,



trust - ing you for full sal - va - tion, free and true.
for your grace and ten - der mer - cy trust - ing now.
trust - ing you to make me ho - ly by your blood.
ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing all my need.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Presentation from Athletic Director, Tom Stob

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday morning, children ages 3yrs to 6th grade are invited to learn more about Jesus in Sunday JAM, starting at 9:15am in the Kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at the same time in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Epiphany Moments – Love Your Enemies, Overcome Evil with Good
Bible Readings: Genesis 53:3-15; Romans 12:14-21; Luke 6:27-38
Hymns: 733, 729, 767, 928



Salem's Youth Lock-In for grades 7-12 is coming up on Friday, February 21, and we need chaperones to help make the night a success! Volunteers are needed for shifts throughout the night. If you're available and would like more information, please email Rachel Collins r.collins005@gmail.com.

Your presence ensures a fun and safe event for our youth! If you're available to help, please let us know.

Thank you!

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ✦ Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

