

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People, Pastor: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Karen Arzt

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

CALENDAR

Feb. 15	Confirmation	6:30pm-8:00 pm
Feb. 19	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
	Installation of Council	
	Children Sing	
	Noisy Offering Returns!	
Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

With the return of noisy offering on February 19, we will be back to our pre-covid services format. Don't forget your change next week!!

Pastor Horn will lead us in worship on Ash Wednesday, with the East Conference pastors doing a round robin for the remaining mid-week services. Bishop Malpica will lead our worship March 29. Mark your calendar for that one, and plan to be here. We will have more information in the March/April newsletter.

St. Paul's and the Wisconsin Council of Churches are joining together to host a Free Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic on Tuesday, February 28, 2pm-6pm. The Monroe County Health Department is coordinating the event with the following Bivalent Boosters (only) available:

Moderna for ages 6 years and older
Pfizer for those ages 12 years and older

The clinic is open to the public, walk-in or by appointment. Appointments are preferred and are available by calling the Monroe County Health Department at 608-269-8666.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 12, 2023

**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

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

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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.

Hymn "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" ELW #247

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.

***KYRIE ELW p. 184**

***Canticle of Praise "Glory to God" ELW p.185**

***Prayer of the Day**

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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

The LORD sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Benediction**

Hymn "O Christ, Our Hope" ELW #604

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, John Acker, Lois Reineke, Judy Bever, Wynn Liersch, Mary Leis, Tracie Herman, Debra Welch, Patrick Reardon, Denny Robinson, Bea & Mike Dwyer, Bob Weibel, Pete Nelson.

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Merciful God, receive our prayer)

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

*Offertory Hymn "Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil" **ELW #512**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Liberating God,
**you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.**
**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.**
**You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.**

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:1-8

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who follow the teaching of the LORD!

²**Happy are they who observe your decrees
and seek you with all their hearts,**

³who never do any wrong,
but always walk in your ways.

⁴**You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them.**

⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct
that I might keep your statutes!

⁶**Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

⁷I will thank you with a true heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

⁸**I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

Second Reading

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are coworkers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

"Alleluia"

ELW p. 188

GOSPEL READING

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

The holy gospel according to **Matthew 5:21-37**

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

Reverend Karen Sparling

Hymn

**"O God, My Faithful God"
(Melody: Now Thank We All Our God")**

ELW #806