

Epiphany 6

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany (Year C)

What does it mean to be blessed? God and the world have two different definitions. The prophet Jeremiah shares God's Word saying, to be blessed is to trust in the Lord and to be cursed is to put our trust in idols and material goods. Jesus taught his followers that they will be blessed when they follow his ways; it will happen when they least expect it: when they are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, and excluded.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Like a Tree Planted by Water

Jeremiah recounted the Word of the Lord against Judah. Their sins of idolatry and greed caused the Lord to be angry with them, so angry, that he threatened to turn them over to their enemies. Those whose hearts have turned away from God will be cursed. But those who trust in the Lord will be blessed like trees planted by water.

Psalm 1

Blessed is the Man

Blessed are those who do not keep company with scoffers but who delight in the Lord. They shall be like trees planted by the waters, bearing fruit in due season and prospering by the blessing of the Lord's goodness.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:(1-11) 12-20

Christ Died for Our Sins

Paul addressed the Corinthians who were questioning Jesus' resurrection. If Christ was not raised from the dead by the glory of God, then our faith is in vain. If Jesus was never raised from the dead, then we are still captive to sin and living life in futility. If our hope is in this life only, then we of all people are the most to be pitied. However, Paul asserted, Jesus has indeed been raised from the dead!

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:17-26

Blessings and Woes

Jesus came down the mountain and delivered a powerful sermon to those who gathered. He healed many and cast out demons as power came out from him. He turned his eyes to his followers and taught them the true meaning of being blessed. It's not when things are going well, but when we struggle that we are most blessed.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie OR Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles' Creed in Ordinary Time.
- St. Luke adds to the "blessings" of the Beatitudes a set of "woes." We are blessed when we are persecuted because of our commitment to Christ, and conversely those who live in comfort apart from Jesus will have a reversal of fortunes in the coming kingdom. How do we hear these words today as those who have many blessings but seek to follow Jesus? How are God's ways always the opposite of what we would think?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Blest Are They	---	764	---	728	---	---
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing	499	---	686	807	227	227
Arise, Your Light Has Come	---	652	---	314	---	---
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken	358	---	648	647	3	3
Beautiful Savior	518	---	537	838	252	252
Before You, Lord, We Bow	401	---	966	893	---	---
Blessed Assurance	---	699	---	638	190	190
Christ for the World We Sing	---	---	---	---	270	270
Go, My Children, with My Blessing	---	721	922	543	53	53
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	198	---	621	490	80	80

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Counting Every Blessing
(CCLI# 7101176)
Blessed Are You
(CCLI# 4175074)
O Praise the Name
(CCLI# 7037787)
Your Love Never Fails
(CCLI# 5337172)
Grateful
(CCLI# 7067558)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.