

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
 Year of the Lord 2019
 Luke 6

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
 “Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
 Thee!”**

¹⁷And he 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, ¹⁸who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

²⁰And 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!”** ²³Rejoice 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.

In the Name of Jesus:

That title, ‘The Son of Man,’ condemned our King:

⁶⁶When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, ⁶⁷“If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹But from now on the Son of

Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”⁷⁰ So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.”⁷¹ Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

Beloved children of God:

Hear the blessings and woes of the Son of Man
IN...THAT...LIGHT! He was standing, in the flesh, OUR flesh—
GOD was standing there—in the middle of the ONLY men,
leaders, religious, IN...THE...WHOLE...WORLD...who could
POSSIBLY have a clue about Who God is and What He is about
and Where you could find Him, pray to Him, find Him gracious...

And what was THEIR evaluation of THIS MAN’S affirmation that He is that King—Son of God, Christ, Son of Man? Ohhh...my dear ones! Mark this! It was NOT enough that THEY condemn Him! No! The Gospel According to Saint Luke lays bare what SOOTHING MEDICINE the OLD chosen of God had mixed for themselves, in an evil world, yet still holding on to a guilty conscience. What will soothe our worried conscience? POWER!

23 Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. ²And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” ³And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.”¹

Two fun things: in the grocery store, there is the book, ‘25 biblical laws for success in life!’ First of all, there’s only ten! Secondly, I wish I had to dig behind a pile of Luther’s Small Catechisms to reach that nonsense. But that cannot happen.

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 22:66–23:3). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Second: I remember an interview with a modern member of the Chosen People—a celebrity—who admitted that he did not actively participate in any of the religious trappings of Judaism—Sabbath rest, kosher food, attending synagogue services. Instead, for him, his family, his upbringing, his RELIGION was his political party!

Not much has changed in 2000 years, has it? Oh! Let's be glad about that, my dear Lutherans! Let us NOT be superior! ESPECIALLY over Christ's own people, who will not own Him.

The angel has announced Good News of great joy that would be for ALL PEOPLE! When the Baptizer called men 'brood of vipers, offspring of the Serpent,' he called ALL PEOPLE that: those who were baptized anyway, and those who sniffed and harrumphed and turned away.

And the Gospel of Jesus Christ declares that ALL our words, ALL our politics, ALL our cobbling together of making sense of this world—it's ALL broken, dear children of God! We SPEAK of God—and blaspheme every syllable! We SPEAK of kings and rulers—and then lump in God unseen or Jesus our Savior in with them—but with WHAT justification?

HOW can we render to CAESAR what is CAESAR'S, and then in ANY WAY do a RENDERING to God, as if there is ANY...SIMILARITY?! Jesus doesn't want our money, our cheering, our votes—isn't asking for them, doesn't need them, will not accept them! How is HE then, 'Leader?'

And Pilate? Pilate is a PERFECT politician! PASS THE BUCK!

³ And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." ⁵ But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's

jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹ So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer.²

WHAT has King Jesus in common with King Herod? It is disgusting even to begin any comparison.

ALL...OUR...WORDS...ARE...BROKEN! As broken as we are, ourselves. And yet, He came; and threw Himself under the bus, under all the words of power and weakness and right and wrong and innocence and guilt—and He took it all! Why? Well, what ELSE could He do with those superior, yet evil men? More than that! What else can He do with those who know Him best, who learn from Him without end, His disciples?

⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” ⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” ⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly. ³

NOWWWW....oh, was your poor pastor tempted this week! To set up two columns of people: Simon at the head of one list, and those who killed Jesus at the head of the other list; turning the whole thing, even OUR FAITH into a contest of superiority, just like everything else in life. PETER wept, as Jesus said he would; and so, was blessed with repentance. But the soldiers and the holy men LAUGHED while Jesus died—something, my friends, that Peter would never do! And, of course, WE would never laugh at a

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 23:3–9). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 22:56–62). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

man like Jesus Christ, claiming God's favor and yet so OUT of favor with every power we can imagine? Right?

Why must be corner a poor man or woman in this world and pollute them with deeds and news about other men; deeds and news we have no business spreading? How jealous of the mockers on Golgotha can we be?!

³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."⁴

Oh! So heaven holds nothing against those who crucified Him!

The SURPRISE, in the Gospel according to Saint Luke, is THIS: the Emmaus road disciples return to Jerusalem:

³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"⁵

The laughter, the satisfaction, the KINGDOM Jesus calls blessed is where HE rules still where no man would expect Him to rule! Not the Ten Commandments; nor the writers of Biblical Success books; nor our conscience; certainly not Peter's bitter tears.

The 'woes' our Lord speaks are NOT 'Moses-woes!' 'Act right and this world will be one success after another! Act wrong and you will die! Woe to you!'

'Woe' from Jesus' eyes is His affirmation, with finality, that we need never find success with God, favor with God, in ANYTHING that fills and satisfies guilty, fearful men; in anything that makes

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 23:33–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 24:33–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

the laughter of derision the sad mockery of the laughter of true religion: FAITH! HOPE! LOVE!

A dear brother confessed recently that when your poor pastor brings up Holy Baptism, he thinks that a lot of minds in church drive into a ditch, ‘Well, there he goes...AGAIN!’

Here I go again!

Your Washing, unlike any other, is so tiny, so free, so out of the daily mind and obsession and compulsion of ALL MEN...that it is the most certain gift the Holy Spirit could give us, outside the condemned and mocked and crucified King!

If you have NO CERTAINTY about you that God is gracious toward YOU---OUTSIDE YOUR BAPTISM INTO CHRIST!--- then the King of your Baptism calls you blessed in the eyes of heaven! For you are counting on a CLEANSING that even the Old Adam inside you will never count on!

And, like warning little ones that certain things in this world are not worth putting in their mouth—because they are ICKY!—our King, gently, says ‘woe-woe’ and ‘no-no’ to any word, any power, any movement, any thinking, that would make you make yourself worthy of God.

In this huge cemetery of guilt and despair in which we live for a few short more...whatever...those are real temptations! Words of superiority---and the attending laughter and derision and starving and impoverishing. ‘This is MY GRAVE! MY SPACE! My mud and bugs and whatever else I find down here! NOT...YOURS!’—

The Dead Man in us is still moved by such things. But the New Man Jesus SAYS we are is so blessed by heaven! We can let the mud in the mud, the dead bury the dead, Caesar-worshippers worship Caesar—

And live NOW, HERE, as if we are surely THERE, AND THEN—

When our King returns to take into His kingdom those He pardons—like those who killed Him—and Simon too! And, since we have been washed clean according to HIS pledge—why not bless us too, in the Name of Jesus?! Amen!