



## HOLY LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4210 S. Chambers Road Aurora, CO 80014  
office@holylovelutheran.org www.holylovelutheran.org  
303-693-1162 www.facebook.com/HolyLoveLutheran



*Create in Me,  
A Clean Heart, O God!*

**Sixth Sunday After Epiphany  
February 16th, 2020**



# HOLY LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4210 South Chambers Road  
Aurora, CO 80014  
(303) 693-1162

Pastor: Matthew Weber

February 16, 2020  
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



PRELUDE

CHANGE MY HEART, OH GOD  
(11:00) PRAZE SONG

ESPINOSA/HAYES

## GATHERING

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the eternal voice from heaven,  
the anointed and beloved one,  
the Spirit moving over the waters.  
*Amen.*

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,  
trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God who searches us and knows us,  
*you have shown us what is good,  
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.  
We have not been just in our dealings with others.  
We have chosen revenge over mercy.  
We have promoted ourselves  
instead of walking humbly with you.  
Forgive us our sin,  
and show us your salvation  
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

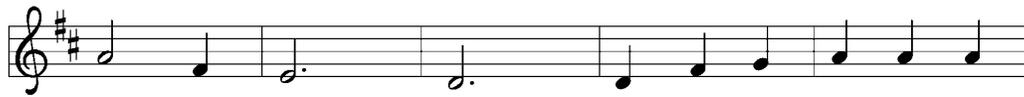
Receive the promise of baptism:  
You are a beloved child of God;  
your sins are forgiven ☩  
Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.  
*Amen.*

GATHERING HYMN

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF LIGHT



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

GREETING

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.*

HYMN OF PRAISE

GLORY TO GOD

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.

☐ Lord God, heav- en - ly king, al- migh- y God and Fa- ther, we

wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.

☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
 I For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 II you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
 Spir- it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther, A - men.  
 ☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,  
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Let us pray. Holy God,

*Too often we blame external people and situations for our heartaches and brokenness. Help us to look inward to uncover and heal the things that defile: bitterness, hatred, jealousy, and greed. Help us instead to be agents of peace, hope and generosity and love. In the name of Jesus our teacher. Amen.*

# WORD

## FIRST READING

PSALM 51:1-3, 6-7

*after the reading:*

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

## GOSPEL

MARK 7:1-23

*before the reading*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the Seventh chapter:  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

*after the reading:*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise to you, O Christ.*

## SERMON

*Following the sermon, we pause for a few moments of silence, expecting that God's Holy Spirit will continue to speak to us*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## LORD, LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,  
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

*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 into hell.*

*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**

God of revelation, as we gather in praise for the gracious mystery of your Son, we remember the many needs of your church and your world.

*after each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy.  
***hear our prayer.***

*the prayers conclude:*

Guide us on the path of salvation, O God, that the radiance and power of your Holy Spirit working in the world will gather together all peoples and nations in one community to offer you worship and proclaim your splendor.  
***Amen.***

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
***And also with you.***

*we greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

**SHARING OF LIFE AND MINISTRY**

**MEAL**

**OFFERING**

**8:30 CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART**

**ANONYMOUS/HAYES**

**11:00 SOFTLY AND TENDERLY**

**THOMPSON**

***(PRAISE SONG)***

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

LET THE VINEYARDS

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God,  
*through your goodness  
you have blessed us with these gifts:  
ourselves, our time, and our possessions.  
Use us and what we have gathered,  
in feeding the world with your love,  
through the one who gave himself for us,  
Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.  
*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

## PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed, our duty and delight ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy God, mighty Lord, Gracious Father, endless is your mercy and eternal is your reign ...

We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God  
now and forever.

***Amen.***

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your mercy, 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***

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Come to the banquet,  
for all is now ready.

***Thanks be to God***

### **COMMUNION**

*Christ is the Host at this feast; All are welcome at the table of God's grace. The Chalice contains wine; red wine and white grape juice are provided in the trays. After you receive the bread, you may either dip (intinct) the bread in the chalice and receive the bread and wine together; or, you may eat the bread, and drink either from the chalice or from a small glass in the tray. Please let the server know if you require a gluten-free wafer.*



**HYMNS DURING COMMUNION**

**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR**



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

**TAKE MY LIFE (Vs. 1-4)**



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

## I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
 3 "Un - less . . . . . you . . . . . eat of the  
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,  
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . . . I be - lieve that . . . . .

come to me shall not . . . hun - ger, and who be -  
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . . . and if you  
 flesh of the Son of . . . Man . . . . . and . . .  
 I . . . . . am the . . . life. . . . . If you be -  
 you . . . . . are the . . . Christ, . . . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
 eat . . . . . of this bread, you shall . . live for -  
 drink . . . . . of his blood, and drink . . . . . of his  
 lieve . . . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . though you  
 Son . . . . . of . . . God, who . . . . . has . . . . .

me un - less the . . Fa - ther beck - ons."  
 ev - er, . . . . . you shall . . live for - ev - er."  
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
 die, . . . . . you shall . . live for - ev - er."  
 come in - to . . . . . the . . . . . world. . . . .

*Refrain* A E A D E  
 "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,  
 A D A E A  
 and I will raise you up on the last day."

Text: John 6, adapt. S. Suzanne Toolan, SM, b. 1927  
 Music: S. Suzanne Toolan, SM, b. 1927  
 © 1966 GIA Publications, Inc.

I AM THE BREAD  
irregular

## THE BLESSING

*after all have returned to their places*

The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, Strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace.

*Amen.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, Almighty God,

*that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*Amen.*

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving;  
And the blessing of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain  
with you forever.

*Amen*



SENDING HYMN

A MIGHTY FORTRESS



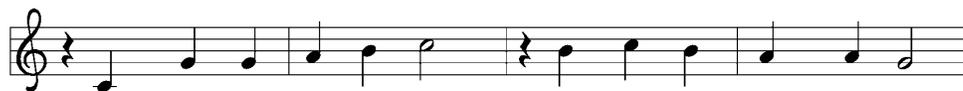
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**POSTLUDE**

**WE BRING THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE**

**DEARMAN/HAYES**

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*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*

***Our thoughts and prayers are with:***

Bill Faul (Friend of Lori Rieger), Family and friends of Paulette Traver (Hal & Sherry Traver's sister-in-law), Ian Condie, Maggie Condie, Allie Nicodemus (Mary Stephenson's granddaughter), Silas (Eric & Cindy Hermanson's grandson), Rev. Darrel Peterson, Verne Roenfeldt, Sydney and Zach Brinkmann (Earl and Sue Weihe's niece and nephew), Lynda White (daughter of Jim & Colleen Wood), John Harman, Cal Hosman, Rita Hinze (Dorothea Madry's mother), Jean Roenfeldt, Ron Sadecky (Cindy Hermanson's step father), Joe Fjell (Beth Whitney's brother), Christa Stone (Katherine Allen's mother), Ryan Rickard (Laverne Rickard's son), Dale Fjell (cousin of Beth Whitney), Brittney (Steve Knuth's niece), Johnna Tavera (Shane Allen's sister), Sue Last, Gary Mindt (Lori Rieger's uncle), Vicki Hosman, Miguel Martinez, Rick Thorstad, Agnes Spino, Liam Sinclair, Butch Abbott, Jon Zimmer, Shirley Kutowy, Julie Christianson, Brenda Allen, Jenny L. Staggs, Dewy Hertz

***Pray for our Military:***

Ryan Winter, (Eric & Cindy Hermanson's Son in-Law), Joshua Specht & Jeremiah Specht (Steve & Leanne Alfrey's Sons), Shayne Braunlich (former student of Beth Whitney), Aaron Clabaugh (Diana Stigleman's nephew), Stephen Terrell, Heath Terrell, Trevor Toft, Jason Anderson, Chase Pofahl, Tyler Pofahl, Lara Pitt, Alicia Phelps, Trevor Koch, Josh Moyer, Jesse Newell, Shirley Kidoroy



**If you are a guest this morning, WELCOME!**

Please sign the "Friendship Pad" as it is passed to you.  
As you join us in worship, our hope is that you will find renewed strength in God.

**If you would like more information about becoming a member or  
if you would like to be added to the weekly e-mail list to find out  
what's going on at Holy Love, e-mail the office at:  
[office@holylovelutheran.org](mailto:office@holylovelutheran.org)**



Alter Bouquets today are provided by  
Deb & Greg Watson in honor of their anniversary.  
***Happy Anniversary!***

## Holy Love Calendar

### Today at Holy Love Lutheran Church

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:30 am Fellowship  
10 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service

*A Full Calendar can be viewed on our website at  
[www.holylovelutheran.org/happenings](http://www.holylovelutheran.org/happenings)*

### This Week at Holy Love Lutheran Church

**Mon, Feb 17**      5:30 pm Praise Song  
6:30 pm NA

**Tues, Feb 18**      6 pm Halo Girls Corps  
7 pm Council Meeting

**Wed, Feb 19**      6 pm NA Meeting & Support

**Thurs, Feb 20**      6 pm Theology Pub  
7 pm Holy Knit Wits

**Fri, Feb 21**      7 am Men's Breakfast @  
Village Inn  
6 pm NA Meeting

**Sat, Feb 22**      8 am Easter Seals

### Today's Worship Assistants

<b>Organist</b>	Michelle Kneipper
<b>Special Music</b>	Praise Song
<b>Lector</b>	
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Beth Newsom
<b>Acolyte</b>	
<b>Ushers (8:30)</b>	Jeremiah Jones Logan Jones Frank Northime
<b>Ushers (11:00)</b>	Lindy Whitney
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Marie Christianson
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Donita Harvey Melissa Meacham
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>	Preschool Board



If you would like to add someone on to the Prayer List, please complete a prayer request card found in the pew or email Lori at [office@holylovelutheran.org](mailto:office@holylovelutheran.org).

The deadline for items to appear in the bulletin and the E-News is Tuesday morning. The deadline for the Prayer Chain is Thursday morning. Thank you.



**Dimanche Gras Lunch**  
**SUNDAY, SUNDAY, SUNDAY**  
**February 23rd 12:00-2:00 PM**

Holy Love Youth are holding their 3rd Annual Dimanche Gras Lunch to help raise funds to send our teens to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN.

Join us for food with a Mardi Gras flare, jazzy music and Hurricane punch (non-alcoholic of course) served by our finest young people! A link has been included in the weekly E-News if you would like to bring a dish. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. **Free Will donations welcome!**



Theology Pub meets the third Thursday of each month at LuBo's pizza in Centennial.

**When:** Feb. 20th from 6-7 pm

**Where:** 15332 E. Ida Dr., Unit H  
 Centennial. CO 80015

**Topic:** The Theology of Feasting (and fasting)

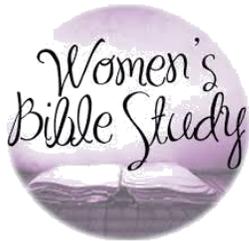
**Social Networking**

When: Feb. 25th, 5:30 - 7 pm

Where:



4550 S. Reservoir Rd  
 Aurora, CO 80015



Women of Holy Love are invited to join our Bible study and enjoy fellowship, treats and lessons from the Bible. We will meet in the youth room from 9:15-11:00 am. Studies are found in the ELCA Gather Magazine. Extra copies will be provided.

Our next study date is:  
**February 26 at 9:15 am.**

*A complete list of study dates can be found on the Holy Love calendar at [www.holylovelutheran.org](http://www.holylovelutheran.org)*

*If you have questions, please contact Peggy Apmann at 303-693-1802 or [rgammg@yahoo.com](mailto:rgammg@yahoo.com)*



Our Christian Education Committee is holding a General Meeting for Parents & Youth of all Ages!

Please plan on attending.

**March 1st at  
 12 pm**

*Pizza will be provided.*

*If you have any changes that you would like to make to your contact information, please let Lori know asap. New Membership Directories are in the final stages of completion.*



# Office Hours

## The Holy Love Church Office Hours

**Mon-Fri**

**9 am - 1 pm**

*The office will be closed Feb. 17th*

### Contact Information

Church Office Phone - 303.693.1162

[www.holylovelutheran.org](http://www.holylovelutheran.org)

[www.facebook.com/holylovelutheran](https://www.facebook.com/holylovelutheran)

### Pr. Matthew

email - [pastor@holylovelutheran.org](mailto:pastor@holylovelutheran.org)

cell phone (call or text) - 720.301.9411

facebook message - [facebook.com/hikerrev](https://facebook.com/hikerrev)

### Interim Faith Formation Director:

**Amy Schmuck**

Cell phone - 720.682.4768

email - [youth@holylovelutheran.org](mailto:youth@holylovelutheran.org)

Office Administrator: Lori Rieger

email - [office@holylovelutheran.org](mailto:office@holylovelutheran.org)

Preschool & Kindergarten 303.693.8519

*Holy Love Evangelical Lutheran Church is committed to proclaiming and living the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ as we gather for worship and study, and scatter for witness and service to our neighbors.*



**Hearing Loop installed.  
Switch hearing aid to T-coil.**

### Worship



## Worship Assistants Sign up Online

You can sign up on our website under the "Worship" or "Youth and Family" tabs. If you have questions, or need help, please see Debbie Anderson .



## Sunday Flowers

*The flower charts for 2020 are posted in the Narthex.*

Please consider providing 1 or 2 bouquets for a Sunday morning. Add your name and possibly a short note about why you are providing flowers, place a check made out to Holy Love Lutheran Church for \$35 per bouquet and "flowers for (date)" on the memo line, in the offering plate or on the desk in the office. Bring the bouquet(s) home after church that Sunday or deliver to a shut-in, etc.

### Social Media Disclaimer

As our world is constantly changing, so too does the way we communicate with one another. Many people rely on social and electronic mediums for information and to stay connected. We want to see what's going on, not just hear or read. With that said, please know that pictures of Holy Love's functions may be posted on social media or on our website. Should you wish not to be shown in these posts, please provide a signed and dated letter to be kept on file in the office, stating your desire not to be shown in our publications. Thank you.

### Do You Get Holy Love's Weekly Email?

If not, you can easily sign up right now!

Text **HOLYLOVE** to **22828** to get started.



Message and data rates may apply.

**Psalm 51:1-3, 6-7**

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!

Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me.

And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places; you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.

Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

**Mark 7:1-23**

The Pharisees and some legal experts from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They saw some of his disciples eating food with unclean hands. (They were eating without first ritually purifying their hands through washing. The Pharisees and all the Jews don't eat without first washing their hands carefully. This is a way of observing the rules handed down by the elders. Upon returning from the marketplace, they don't eat without first immersing themselves. They observe many other rules that have been handed down, such as the washing of cups, jugs, pans, and sleeping mats.) So the Pharisees and legal experts asked Jesus, "Why are your disciples not living according to the rules handed down by the elders but instead eat food with ritually unclean hands?"

He replied, "Isaiah really knew what he was talking about when he prophesied about you hypocrites. He wrote,

*This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far away from me.  
Their worship of me is empty  
since they teach instructions that are human words.*

You ignore God's commandment while holding on to rules created by humans and handed down to you." Jesus continued, "Clearly, you are experts at rejecting God's commandment in order to establish these rules. Moses said, *Honor your father and your mother, and The person who speaks against father or mother will certainly be put to death. But you say, 'If you tell your father or mother, 'Everything I'm expected to contribute to you is corban(that is, a gift I'm giving to God),' then you are no longer required to care for your father or mother.' In this way you do away with God's word in favor of the rules handed down to you, which you pass on to others. And you do a lot of other things just like that.*"

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing outside of a person can enter and contaminate a person in God's sight; rather, the things that come out of a person contaminate the person."

After leaving the crowd, he entered a house where his disciples asked him about that riddle. He said to them, "Don't you understand either? Don't you know that nothing from the outside that enters a person has the power to contaminate? That's because it doesn't enter into the heart but into the stomach, and it goes out into the sewer." By saying this, Jesus declared that no food could contaminate a person in God's sight. "It's what comes out of a person that contaminates someone in God's sight," he said. "It's from the inside, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come: sexual sins, thefts, murders, adultery, greed, evil actions, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, insults, arrogance, and foolishness. All these evil things come from the inside and contaminate a person in God's sight."

**Next Week's  
Gospel Reading:  
Mark 8:27 - 9:8**