

Agnus Dei (O Christ Lamb of God – Lit. pg. 23)

RECEPTION of Christ's Body & Blood which are Really Present, In / With and Under the Bread and the Wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Communion Hymn **C.W. 458 / TLH 412** sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 468 vs. 1 / TLH 424** sung by the Congregation.

Wherever You Are, There Is God's Mission Field.

SERMON TEXT: Romans 12:1-2; 6-8

Vs. 1 – Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of **worship**.

Vs. 2 – Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Vs. 6 – We have **different gifts**, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

Vs. 7 – If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

Vs. 8 – if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously, if it is leadership, let him govern diligently, if it's showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. .
(Matt. 24:35)

I would guess that you are familiar with the following statement of something similar. "Just because everyone else is jumping off the bridge, does not mean that you should jump off the bridge."

In this text from Paul's letter to the congregation of believers in Rome, God through the Apostle Paul was telling them, and is telling us something similar:

Vs. 2 – Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world –

In other words, just because everyone else in the world is doing something, does not mean that we should. Instead let us live our lives according to God's Will. As God through Paul tells us:

Vs. 2 – but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Instead of following the ways of the world, we are to follow what God wants.
As Christians, we know what God wants.

From the Holy Scriptures, God's Holy, Inspired, Infallible, Inerrant Word we know what God wants because He tells us.

In the Ten Commandments God tells us what His Will is.

1st – Thou shall have no other gods.

What or who do you put first in your life?

2nd – Do not take God's name in vain.

In other words, when you smash your finger in the shop, or when someone cuts you off on the road, what type of words come out of your mouth?

3rd – Remember the Sabbath Day.

How many excuses can you come up with to not join together with fellow Christians in Joint Public Worship? – Of course, in recent month we have had to deal with COVID-19, yet there are still numerous options to study and hear God's Word through personal Bible study and technology.

4th – Honor your Father and Mother.

Did you always agree with what your parents told you? They are still the parents God gave you.

This commandment includes showing respect to the President, Governors, judges, and police officers.

5th - Thou shall not kill.

This includes hate. Are you harboring anger and hate in your heart for someone? Let it go.

6th – Do not commit Adultery.

Keep the Marriage bed pure, for God tells us that He will judge the adulterer and the sexually immoral. (Hebrews 13:4) We might think that COVID-19 is a serious problem, sex outside of marriage is also a problem and is a slap in God's face and the institution of Marriage of one man and one woman for life.

7th – Thou shall not steal.

Are your hands innocent?

8th – Do not Bear False Witness.

Have you always spoken well of your neighbor and taken their words in the kindest possible way?

9th & 10th – Do not Covet.

You know what is in your heart, and God knows also. How often do we want things in an unhealthy manner?

These are all things that God WANTS us to do.

Have you kept them all perfectly? Can you or anyone undo the times we failed? If you have a job and do not follow the rules and repeatedly disobey your boss, what can happen?

Get Fired!

Do we really want to repeatedly and knowingly disobey God?

It is important to remember that we do not keep the law of God thinking that by doing so we will earn our salvation or assist in our salvation in any way, rather these are things that we do according to God's Will are things we do as we give thanks to God for all that He has given us here on this earth and for eternity in heaven.

What else does God want?

We know about His 10 Commandments, but God also tells us in His Word that He wants ALL people / mankind in heaven!

I Timothy 2:3-4 – “This (Pray for our leaders) is good and please God our Savior, Who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

God of course has won salvation for us and all mankind by sending His One and Only Son to die for us upon the Cross of Calvary. (John 3:16)

By the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sin of the World, we have the forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting. (I John 2:1-2; John 1:29)

Now as Christians, who know God's Will. We know His Law, and we know His Gospel. God through the Apostle Paul has given us some direction on what we can do with our life until Jesus comes again on the Last Day, with all His Holy Ones. (I Thess. 3:13)

Listen to what God tells us to do with our time until Jesus comes again:

Vs. 6 – We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

Vs. 7 – If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

Vs. 8 – if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously, if it is leadership, let him govern diligently, if it's showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

What gift or gifts has God given you? Use those gifts faithfully, even if you think that your gift is not important or good enough. Whatever Gifts God has given you, we have an opportunity to use them every day here and now - and forever in heaven as a way to say “Thank You God” for the Salvation which He has won for us in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior and our Living God. AMEN