

A WEEKLY DEVOTION



INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Reading

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. -1 Corinthians 12:1-3

For Reflection

We are each gifted with unique talents and gifts from God for the betterment of the community. Today's scripture also reminds us that we are able to judge what is good for the community and what is harmful for the community based on how it represents God. If an action or word leads to harm against our neighbors, it is as if we are cursing the name of Jesus. Conversely, if our words and actions bring glory to God by caring for our neighbor, we are proclaiming that Jesus is Lord.

It is easy to be led astray by false idols. Wealth, power, privilege, and the need to be "right" are tempting to all of us. But God's kingdom calls us to something better. We are to work for equity, justice, and compassion. We are called to be humble and to listen to our neighbors when they speak, so that we might learn and then do better. There is room in all of our lives to be better listeners so that we might turn and use our gifts in better, more productive ways, bringing glory to God and proclaiming that Jesus is Lord, with both our voices and our deeds.

Prayer

Holy God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.